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"The Bible Of Boxing"®

EVANDER HOLYFIELD

The Ring's Fighter Of The Year

IS IT TIME FOR BOWE TO GO?

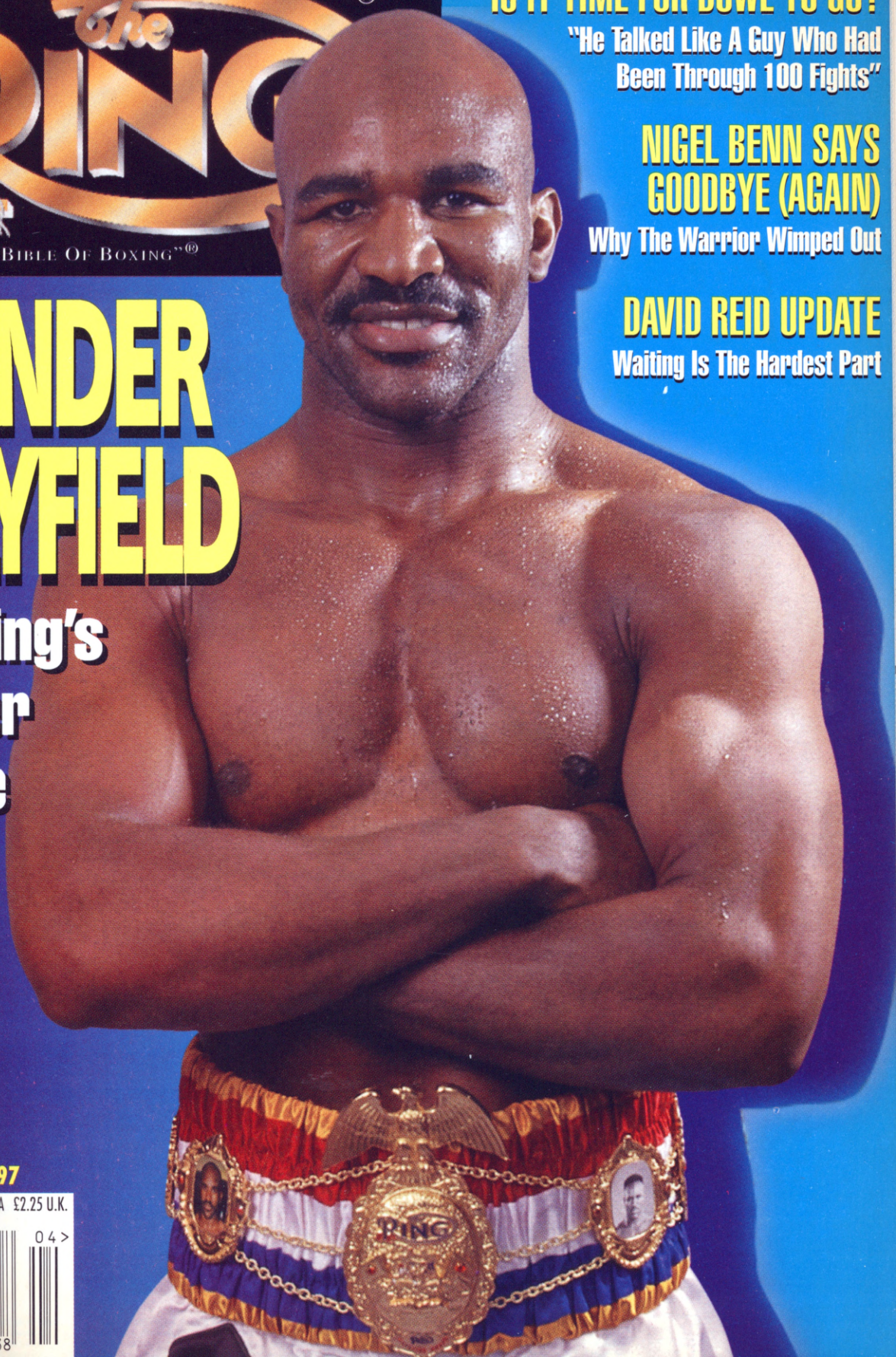
"He Talked Like A Guy Who Had Been Through 100 Fights"

NIGEL BENN SAYS GOODBYE (AGAIN)

Why The Warrior Wimped Out

DAVID REID UPDATE

Waiting Is The Hardest Part



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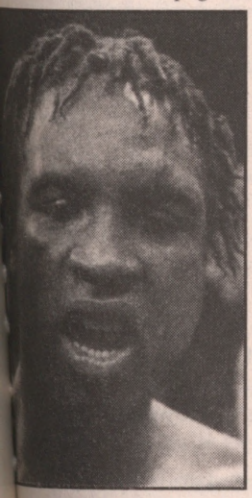

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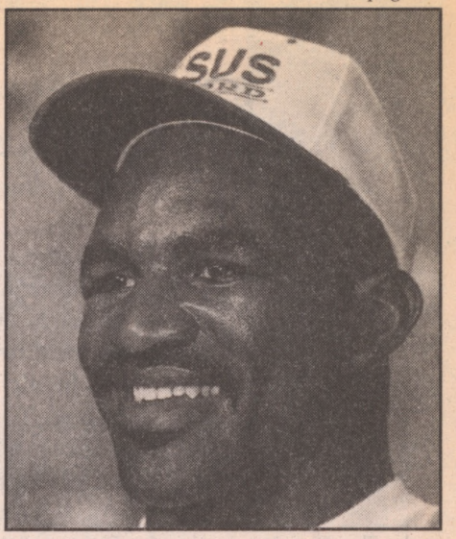

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RINGSIDE

Rare is a fighter who transcends the ring. Rarer yet is a *fight* that does the same. On November 9, Evander Holyfield defied the odds that made him a no-hoper, as well as the experts who feared for his health. The three-time heavyweight champion's victory over Mike Tyson moved people in a variety of ways. I don't know if church-going attendance rose the next morning, but Holyfield's triumph was definitely one of the spirit.

Over most of the second half of 1996, I dreaded having to make THE RING's selection for Fighter of the Year. Having won two versions of the heavyweight title, Tyson seemed the logical choice. But did I really want to reward him for the failings of Frank Bruno, Bruce Seldon, and what was presumably a shot Holyfield? Oscar De La Hoya? Roy Jones? None would have been selected with enthusiasm. My dilemma, of course, was solved on November 9.

Whether you're male or female, young or old, black or white, fight fanatic or boxing abolitionist, Holyfield provided you with something meaningful. It wasn't just a great fight, but an important one as well, especially for boxing, which received a much-needed boost.

It was a long time ago that the boxing community learned Holyfield was a special fighter. This year, the rest of the world learned he was a remarkable man.

***

Fight of the Year: A colleague of mine put it best: If you were watching in a vacuum, Marco Antonio Barrera KO 12 Kennedy McKinney offered more action than Holyfield KO 11 Tyson. But we *weren't* watching in a vacuum. What distinguished Holyfield-Tyson from the other great fights of 1996 was the hype. And the stakes. And the crowd. And the fact that we had been waiting for the fight for *six years*. To the surprise of everyone but "The Real Deal," it was worth the wait. Along with Barrera-McKinney, the runners-up include Arturo Gatti KO 6 Wilson Rodriguez and Riddick Bowe W Disq. 9 Andrew Golota.

Knockout of the Year: A tough call. We'll go with Wilfredo Vazquez KO 11 Eloy Rojas. Vazquez was behind on points, and his final salvo was sensational. Runners-up: Vinny Pazienza KO 4 Dana Rosenblatt, Frankie Liles KO 3 Tim Littles, and Mark Johnson KO 1 Francisco Tejedor. One-punch beauties all.

Upset of the Year: Holyfield opened as an 18-1 underdog vs. Tyson. The odds dropped to 6-1, but his kayo victory still rates as one of the most incredible upsets in title fight history. The top runner-up was Junior Jones W Disq. 5 Marco Antonio Barrera. Going in, Jones was thought to be faded, and Barrera was in the top five on all pound-for-pound lists.

Round of the Year: There wasn't much that *didn't* happen during the third round of Liles KO 3 Littles. Both fighters went down, and the rulebreaker's slugfest was ended by a one-punch knockout. Runners-up: Gatti-Rodriguez 3 & 4, Barrera-McKinney 6, and Bowe-Golota 2 (the rematch).

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

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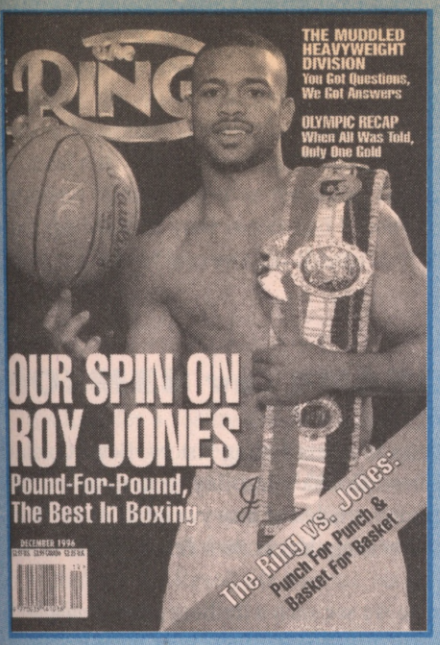

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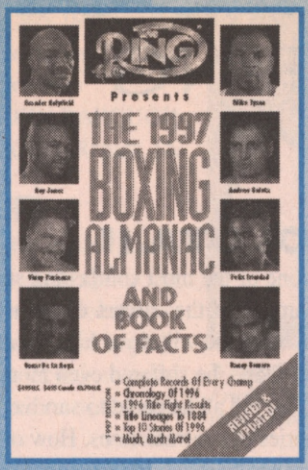

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COME OUT WRITING

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BOWE-GOLOTA II

While producing one of the most compelling struggles in recent boxing history, Bowe-Golota II did immeasurable damage to the careers of both fighters. Golota's inability to keep his punches above his opponents' waistline will drive him out of the top echelon of heavyweights. As for Bowe, despite being in good shape, he suffered even more of a beating than in their first fight. He showed Golota his best stuff, but did all he could to survive.

The fight was a series of contradictions. How often do we see such a thrilling heavyweight battle with such a frustrating and unsatisfying conclusion? When was the last time a bout ended in disqualification and yet proved worth every cent of its pay-per-view price?

I know my opinion may be in the minority, but I think these two great fighters should do it one more time. At this point, all Bowe and Golota really have is each other. It is highly unlikely that either man will challenge for a world title any time in the next couple of years, and no rising or established heavyweight will want to fight them, because they remain two of the most dangerous men in their division.

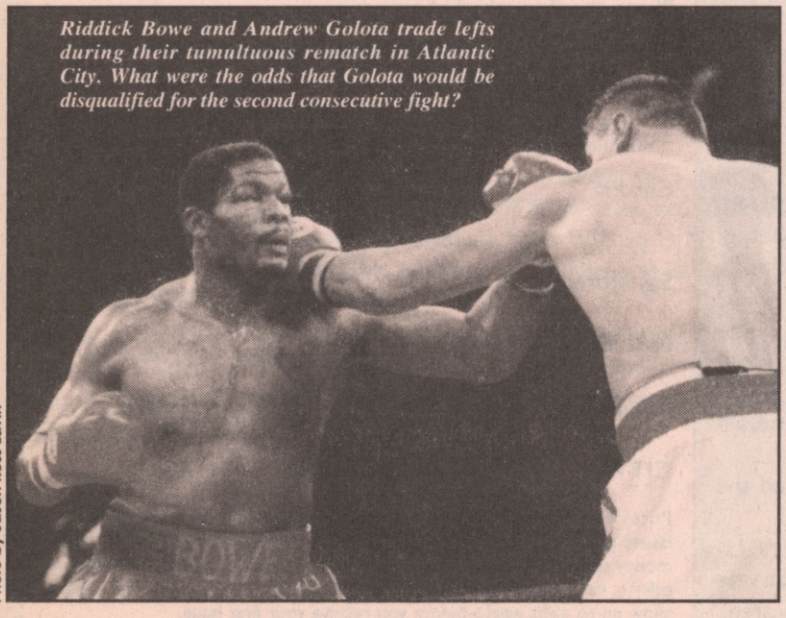
PETER R. CORY
Kingston, Ontario

Andrew Golota is a champion and a survivor. He reminds me of boxers from the old days, when they'd fight 20, 30, or 40 rounds.

Bowe hit Golota with some shots that would have stopped a Mack truck. Still, Golota would keep coming. He would be seriously hurt and probably had no idea where he was—and that's when he'd fire the low blows. It's simply a matter of survival when he gets hurt. But talk about skills for a big heavyweight! He finished Bowe's career.

I'd like to see Golota fight Mike Tyson. I doubt Tyson could take the punishment for more than three rounds.

MICHAEL W. SABOL
Mt. Carbon, PA



Riddick Bowe and Andrew Golota trade lefts during their tumultuous rematch in Atlantic City. What were the odds that Golota would be disqualified for the second consecutive fight?

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

An open letter to Riddick Bowe: The saddest part of your rematch with Golota wasn't so much the sight of you on your back, but the realization that such ignominy was unnecessary.

You endeavored to satisfy critics by proving that you could scale near your 1992 championship level. And you succeeded. But like your idol, Muhammad Ali, who hopelessly sought redemption against a lion named Larry Holmes, you recklessly weakened yourself; 235 pounds was an illusion, a pathetic fan fooler.

Your body told the story; it was obvious from the outset that you were ill-equipped to move a mountain of aggression like Golota.

Still, you displayed the heart and courage detractors suggested you no longer possessed. But because of the myriad excuses concocted by your manager last summer, you knew you couldn't expect public sympathy

by voicing what you must have realized was the major reason for your anemia this time.

Unlike the Ali of old, though, you're still young enough to make a legitimate comeback. Ignore the pundits. Take a well-deserved rest, then whip yourself back into comfortable condition, regardless of the number on the scale. Then rise like the phoenix from the ashes of your career and become, once again, Riddick Bowe, undisputed heavyweight champion of the world.

JOHN BAROUGH
Cedar Rapids, IA

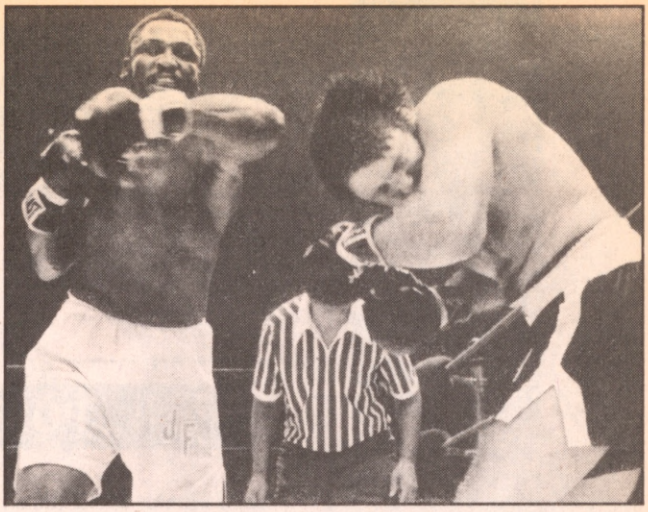
HOLMES vs. FRAZIER

It's time for a reality check for those grossly misled Larry Holmes fans who wrote to THE RING complaining about the "Battle Of The Legends" in the November '96 issue (Holmes vs. Joe Frazier). Holmes was a good fighter, but Frazier was a *great* fighter. The reason Holmes set those meaningless records referred to by reader Mike Reveles is because his competition was much weaker in that era.

Holmes had a great jab, but it wouldn't have stopped Frazier from getting inside and destroying him. Holmes had neither the legs of Ali nor "The Greatest's" ability to absorb Frazier's powerful left hook.

Frazier, and not Holmes, is the one who never received his just due. The truth is that he would have knocked out Holmes in the eighth or ninth round. Holmes was a good sparring partner for Frazier, but by his own admission, "Smokin' Joe" hurt him in places he didn't even know he had.

BRIAN McCARRAHER
Folsom, CA



Would Larry Holmes have survived the thunderous left hooks of Joe Frazier (shown hammering Jerry Quarry)? Our "Battle Of The Legends" pitting Holmes and Frazier drew an unusual amount of mail.

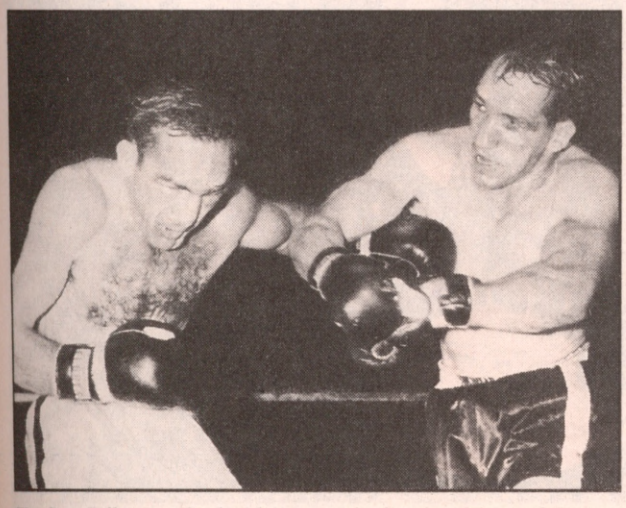
HILL TO THE HALL

Light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill's unification victory over Henry Maske confirmed what I already knew: As soon as he's eligible, Hill will belong in the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

Hill's accomplishments definitely deserve Hall of Fame consideration. He's held at least a portion of the light heavyweight title for eight of the last nine years and has made a record 20 defenses over the course of two reigns. His only loss has come against the great Thomas Hearns. He's often criticized for facing soft opposition, but he's defeated a slew of respected world champions, including Bobby Czyz, Fabrice Tiozzo, Frank Tate (twice), Marvin Camel, Leslie Stewart, and the long-reigning Maske, who was undefeated.

The proliferation of world titles and divisions has devalued the accomplishment of winning championship belts at more than one weight. For Hill to hold the light heavyweight title as long as he has is enough for him to be eventually immortalized in Canastota.

TODD ELLIOTT
Brooklyn, NY



Was Gene Fullmer credited with scoring the first knockdown of Carmen Basilio's career? The bout in question, a middleweight title fight in August 1959, took place at the Cow Palace in San Francisco.

DO WE STAND CORRECTED?

Having read your Holiday issue's feature on the 100 greatest title fights ever, I was disappointed to read some of the misinformation regarding the first Fullmer-Basilio battle. You stated Basilio suffered the first knockdown of his career. Being a long-time Basilio fan, I have that fight on tape. Although I knew your information to be incorrect, I reviewed the entire fight anyway. The referee stopped the fight in the 14th round due to the exhaustion of Basilio, who was losing.

At no point in the fight was there anything even resembling a knockdown. As I enjoy reading THE RING, I would appreciate seeing this error corrected. The first and only knockdown suffered by Basilio came in his last fight with Paul Pender, and it was more from exhaustion than anything Pender did to him.

ROBERT A. SCUDI
Dumont, NJ

Editor's note: The knockdown in question occurred in the 14th round, just before the bout was stopped. In ***Sports Illustrated*** *(September 7, 1959), Martin Kane reported ... "Because [Basilio] was resting on the ropes, it was, in fact, scored a knockdown ... " But in* ***The New York Times*** *(August 29, 1959), Bill Becker wrote " ... It was the first time in a career of 75 fights that Basilio had been stopped. Stopped he was, but never down." We'll go with the word of Jack Fiske, who covered the bout for the* ***San Francisco Chronicle.*** *"The way I remember it," he told us, "was that Basilio was seated on the ropes, and the referee, Jack Downey, issued a count. So officially, it was indeed a knockdown."*

ROUND ONE

POSTPONING A BIRTHDAY

If Jimmy McLarnin's friends and fans are going by recent boxing recordbooks, the two-time former welterweight champion and Hall of Famer must have been bombarded with congratulations on his 90th birthday in December.

Sorry to be an old spoilsport, but the great day won't dawn until December 19, 1997.

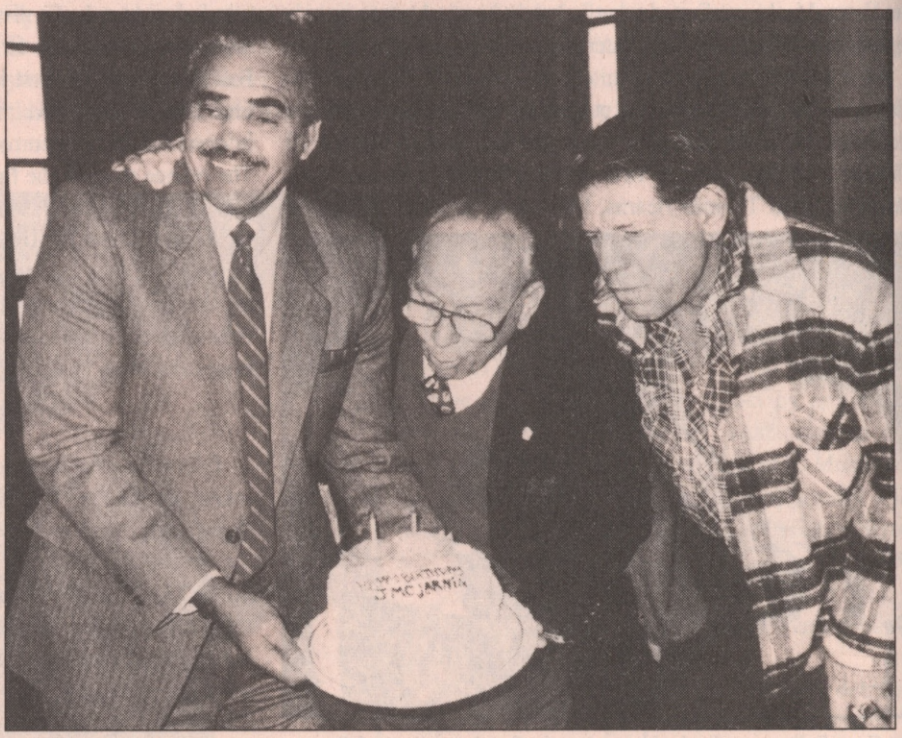
McLarnin's date and place of birth have long been sources of controversy. Recent publications, including *The Boxing Register* (the official recordbook of the International Boxing Hall of Fame), Harry Mullan's *Ultimate Encyclopedia Of Boxing*, and *The Boxing Record Book*, give his birthdate as December 19, 1906. Not only do they get the date wrong, but also the place where he was born.

McLarnin was not born in the Dublin suburb of Inchicore (wrongly spelled Inchacore in *The Boxing Register*). As the birth certificate from the Registry of Births and Deaths in Dublin confirms, McLarnin first saw the light of day in Hillsborough, near Belfast, on December 19, 1907.

"Baby-Face" McLarnin was taken to Canada as a young boy. In a memorable career, he beat 13 world champions. He now lives in California.

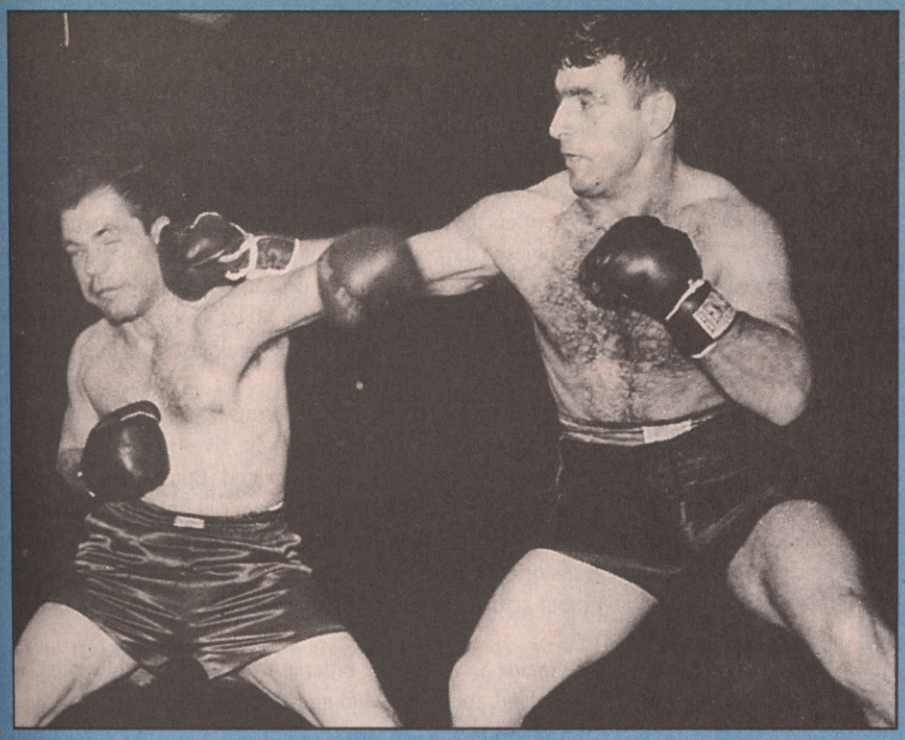
Keep punching, Jimmy. Here's to your real 90th!

–Patrick Myler



McLarnin (center): 90 candles, but not until December

MELIO BETTINA, 1916-1996



Melio Bettina (right) slugs with Gus Dorazio

Former light heavyweight champion Melio Bettina, 80, died on December 20 in Poughkeepsie, New York, of complications from diabetes. He had been living at a nursing home in Poughkeepsie.

Bettina, a native of Bridgeport, Connecticut, won the vacant New York State world 175-pound title by stopping Tiger Jack Fox (KO 9) in 1939. His next two title fights, also in '39, were 15-round points losses to Billy Conn. In Bettina's only other try at world honors, he lost a 15-round decision to Anton Christoforidis in a 1941 bout for the vacant NBA crown.

Over the course of a 15-year career, Bettina faced, among others, Bob Godwin, Fred Apostoli, Solly Krieger, Jimmy Bivins, Curtis Sheppard, and Gus Lesnevich. His overall mark: 84-13-3 (37).

MEL GREB, 1923-1996

Veteran matchmaker and promoter Mel Greb, 73, died on December 30 in Las Vegas, two days after suffering a stroke.

Among the many world title fights Greb arranged was the second Sonny Liston-Floyd Patterson bout in 1963.

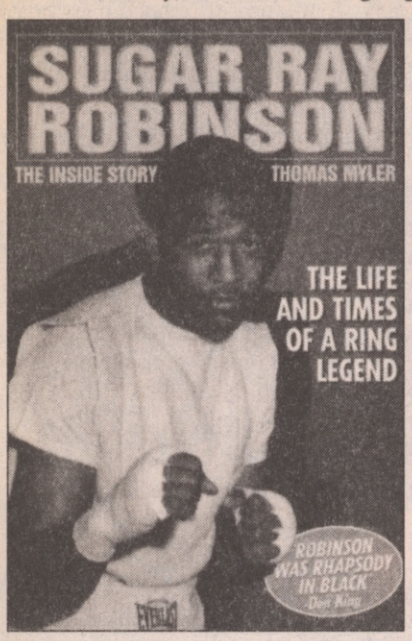
Greb, a native of Newark, New Jersey, relocated to Las Vegas in 1951. Las Vegas became a major boxing locale in the '60s, and Greb was a major player from that point until the The Strip grew into the boxing capital of the world.

"When the big promoters came out here, Mel was always their local guy," said Top Rank matchmaker Bruce Trampler. "He had a real love for fighters and a passion for boxing. In the casinos, he'd walk by a craps table, grab a napkin and a pen, and start making matches. He was a real throwback."

Promoter Bob Arum and matchmaker Mel Greb

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF

One August day in 1976, my brother and I and a female friend walked out of the bar at the Fountainbleau Hotel in Miami Beach as, nearby, a man was bending to get a drink from a water fountain. As recognition struck, his name spontaneously gushed from my mouth. Hearing this, Sugar Ray Robinson flashed his famous smile, pointed at us, and said, "Looky there—a rose and two thorns."



I have waited 20 years to use that story, and the publication of a new biography, *Sugar Ray Robinson: The Inside Story*, offers the perfect chance. Alas, my little anecdote may convey more of the true sense of Robinson the bon vivant, considered by virtual acclamation as the greatest boxer ever, than this 210-page book. While a decent, workmanlike appraisal of, as its title says, "the life and times of a ring legend," Thomas Myler's biography has little of the verve and style that cloaked Robinson's life. On the other hand, just laying out the bare facts is probably dazzling enough.

While somewhat plodding, Myler's book is hardly boring because no book about Robinson could be that. The major bouts of the welterweight, five-time middleweight, and almost-light heavyweight champion are adequately covered. But much of this self-professed "inside story" is familiar stuff apparently culled from old boxing magazines.

One other quibble: Myler's repeated references to Robinson as boxing's "Black Prince" seem a whopping historical stretch; the nickname not only wasn't applied to Robinson during his career, but actually belonged to another great fighter, 19th-century heavyweight Peter Jackson.

Sugar Ray Robinson: The Inside Story may be ordered from Relym Publications, 16 Ailesbury Grove, Dublin 16, Ireland, for $19, including postage.

–Pete Ehrmann

THE 10 REASONS MIKE TYSON CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM THE HOLYFIELD FIGHT

10. Can't get O.J.'s civil suit off his mind.
9. Hasn't seen a tape; didn't order pay-per-view, calling $49.95 price "outlandish."
8. Was fed mind-altering serum by trainers, who feared psychological repercussions of loss.
7. Made pact with devil: You don't mention loss to Holyfield, I won't mention win over Seldon.
6. It was very dark in the arena.
5. That damn Holyfield kept hitting him when he wasn't looking.
4. Memory has never been that good to begin with. For instance, remembers next to nothing from marriage to that Robin what's-her-face.
3. Seventh-round butt wasn't the worst of it; never recovered from clash of heads in dressing room with trainer Jay Bright during prefight game of Twister (left leg—yellow!).
2. Don King said not to worry about it.
1. Which Holyfield fight was that again?

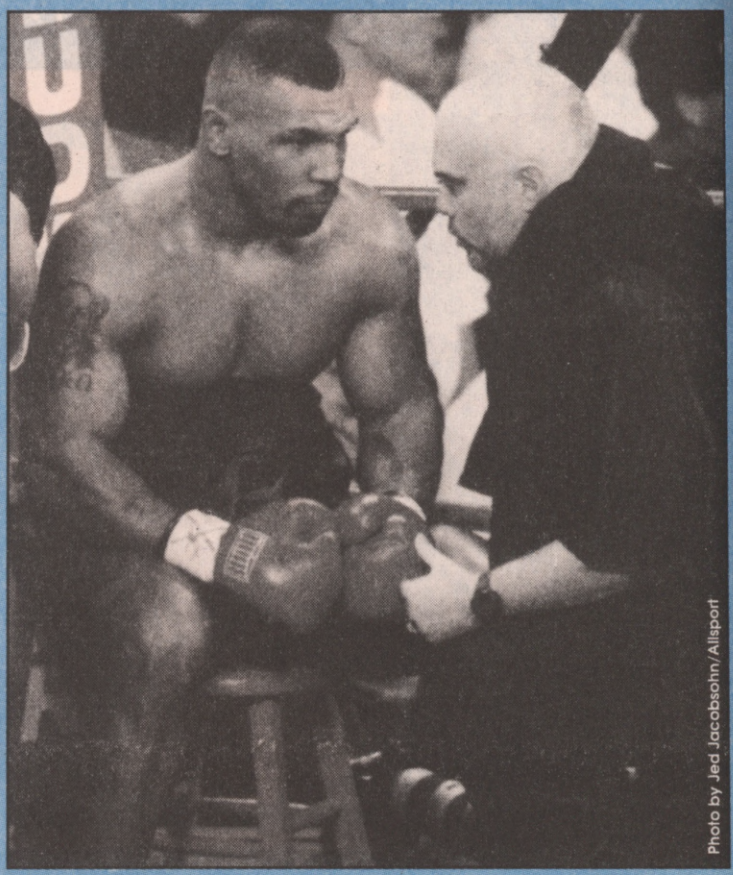


Photo by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport

What did trainer Jay Bright say? Tyson doesn't remember

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Former WBA middleweight champion **Shinji Takehara**, 26, announced his retirement due to a detached retina. Takehara, 24-1 (18), won the title from **Jorge Castro** in December 1995 ... **Mike Tyson** headed *Forbes'* Super 40 list of the highest-paid athletes in the world. "Iron Mike" made $75-million in 1996. Sixth was **Evander Holyfield,** who pocketed $15.5-million. Other boxers in the top 20 were **Roy Jones** ($12-million), **Riddick Bowe** ($11.5-million), and **Oscar De La Hoya** ($11.3-million) ... Heavyweight **Oliver McCall** was arrested after police in Nashville, Tennessee, said he threw a Christmas tree in a hotel lobby and spat on a police car. He was charged with vandalism, disorderly conduct, and resisting arrest ... Former European junior lightweight and lightweight champion **Racheed Lawal**, 30, was stabbed to death after an incident at a disco in Aarhus, Denmark ... **Billy Edwards**, 90, who trained light heavyweight champion **Bob Foster**, died of natural causes in Baltimore ... Former WBC featherweight champion **Alejandro Gonzalez** was arrested in his native Guadalajara, Mexico, for illegal arms possession and making threats to the manager of a nightclub. The Guadalajara daily *Siglo 21* reported it was Gonzalez' fourth arrest in the past two years.

Takehara: Eye problems lead to retirement

THE PUNCHLINES

"He's a guy who gets up at six o'clock in the morning, regardless of what time it is."

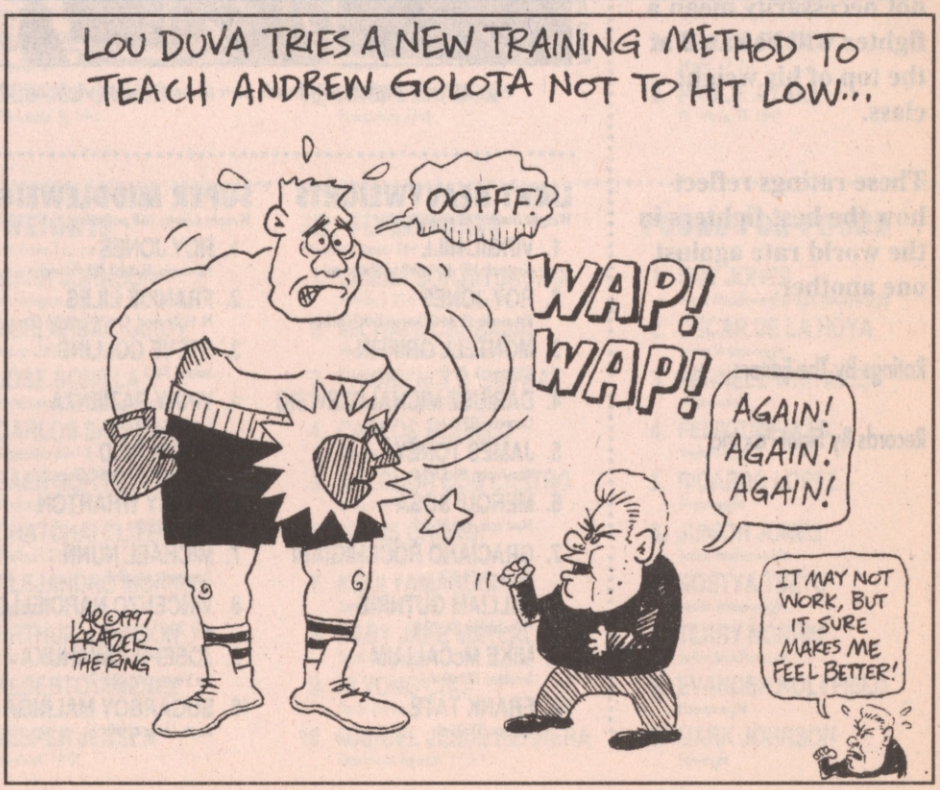
–Lou Duva, on the training habits of heavyweight Andrew Golota, in *Sports Illustrated*

"I'm serious. I'm in England on a mission, and if I don't win, I swear to God I'll shoot myself."

–Bruce Scott before his Commonwealth light heavyweight title fight vs. Nicky Piper

(Scott suffered a seventh-round stoppage loss, after which he did not shoot himself.)

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended January 3, 1997

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Ray Mercer's upset win lands him in our heavyweight top 10

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Atlanta, GA *33-3 (WBA Champ)*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *29-1*
3. **MIKE TYSON** Southington, OH *45-1*
4. **MICHAEL MOORER** Detroit, MI *37-1 (IBF Champ)*
5. **ANDREW GOLOTA** Chicago, IL *28-2*
6. **RAY MERCER** West Orange, NJ *24-4-1*
7. **HENRY AKINWANDE** England *30-0-1*
8. **DAVID TUA** Totowa, NJ *26-0*
9. **RIDDICK BOWE** Fort Washington, MD *40-1*
10. **TIM WITHERSPOON** Philadelphia, PA *45-5*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **NATE MILLER** Philadelphia, PA *28-4 (WBA Champ)*
2. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** Lexington, KY *26-3-2 (IBF Champ)*
3. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** Argentina *21-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **FABRICE TIOZZO** France *34-1*
5. **ALEXANDER GUROV** Ukraine *18-1-1*
6. **KENNY KEENE** Emmett, ID *37-1*
7. **CARL THOMPSON** England *20-4*
8. **DAVID IZEQWIRE** Washington, D.C. *19-1*
9. **TORSTEN MAY** Germany *15-1*
10. **YOSUKEZAN NISHIJIMA** Japan *17-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **VIRGIL HILL** Bismarck, ND *43-1 (WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL *34-0 (Interim WBC Champ)*
3. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** Chicago, IL *26-0*
4. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** Germany *32-0-1*
5. **JAMES TONEY** Ann Arbor, MI *53-3-2*
6. **MERQUI SOSA** New York, NY *27-5-2*
7. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** Germany *38-3-2*
8. **WILLIAM GUTHRIE** Philadelphia, PA *22-0*
9. **MIKE McCALLUM** Brooklyn, NY *49-4-1*
10. **FRANK TATE** Houston, TX *36-4*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL *34-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **FRANKIE LILES** N. Hollywood, CA *29-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **STEVE COLLINS** Ireland *34-3*
4. **VINNY PAZIENZA** Cranston, RI *41-6*
5. **ROBIN REID** England *21-0-1 (WBC Champ)*
6. **HENRY WHARTON** England *25-2-1*
7. **MICHAEL NUNN** Davenport, IA *49-3*
8. **VINCENZO NARDIELLO** Italy *30-6*
9. **JOSEPH KIWANUKA** Las Vegas, NV *22-1-2*
10. **SUGARBOY MALINGA** South Africa *41-10*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA *30-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **KEITH HOLMES** Washington, D.C. *29-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **WILLIAM JOPPY** Washington, D.C. *23-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **LONNIE BRADLEY** New York, NY *25-0*
5. **JORGE CASTRO** Argentina *100-5-2*
6. **QUINCY TAYLOR** Dallas, TX *26-4*
7. **DANA ROSENBLATT** Malden, MA *28-1*
8. **OTIS GRANT** Canada *28-1*
9. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON** Seattle, WA *35-2*
10. **ROBERT McCRACKEN** England *28-0*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA *44-6 (WBC/IBF Champ)*
2. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France *34-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina *56-3*
4. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL *36-1*
5. **CARL DANIELS**
   St. Louis, MO *36-2*
6. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI *29-2*
7. **HECTOR CAMACHO**
   Orlando, FL *63-3*
8. **RAUL MARQUEZ**
   Houston, TX *24-0*
9. **EMMETT LINTON**
   Tacoma, WA *22-2*
10. **ANTHONY STEPHENS**
    Shreveport, LA *28-7-2*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA *39-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico *30-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana *33-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JOSE LUIS LOPEZ**
   Mexico *37-3-1*
5. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *37-2*
6. **PATRICK CHARPENTIER**
   France *23-4*
7. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *22-2-1*
8. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico *65-2*
9. **PATRICK COLEMAN**
   Chicago, IL *25-5*
10. **JOSE LUIS NAVARRO**
    Spain *22-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA *22-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *18-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Warren, OH *53-4-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *97-2-1*
5. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *41-0*
6. **CHARLES MURRAY**
   Rochester, NY *38-3*
7. **KHALID RAHILOU**
   France *28-2*
8. **RAFAEL RUELAS**
   Studio City, CA *47-3*
9. **FRED PENDLETON**
   Miami, FL *41-21-4*
10. **SOREN SONDERGAARD**
    Denmark *28-1*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **ORZUBEK NAZAROV**
   Japan *23-0 (WBA Champ)*
2. **PHILLIP HOLIDAY**
   South Africa *30-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *19-0*
4. **GEORGE SCOTT**
   Pembroke Pines, FL *30-1*
5. **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
   France *49-5-2 (WBC Champ)*
6. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA *21-0*
7. **LEAVANDER JOHNSON**
   Atlantic City, NJ *26-1-1*
8. **IVAN ROBINSON**
   Delran, NJ *23-1*
9. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico *39-4*
10. **ARTUR GRIGORJAN**
    Uzbekistan *21-0*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **AZUMAH NELSON**
   Ghana *39-3-2 (WBC Champ)*
2. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ *24-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA *34-1-1*
4. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY *57-4-1*
5. **REGGIE TUUR**
   Whitestone, NY *42-3-1*
6. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea *21-2 (WBA Champ)*
7. **GABE RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA *43-3*
8. **ROBERT GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA *27-0*
9. **JULIEN LORCY**
   France *33-0*
10. **ANATOLY ALEXANDROV**
    Kazakhstan *28-3*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **TOM JOHNSON**
   Detroit, MI *45-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
   Philippines *40-7 (WBC Champ)*
3. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England *24-0*
4. **WILFREDO VAZQUEZ**
   Puerto Rico *49-7-3 (WBA Champ)*
5. **KEVIN KELLEY**
   Flushing, NY *46-1-2*
6. **EVER BELENO**
   Colombia *34-2*
7. **WELCOME NCITA**
   South Africa *39-2*
8. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico *18-1*
9. **MANUEL MEDINA**
   Mexico *52-8*
10. **DERRICK GAINER**
    Pensacola, FL *18-4*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Brooklyn, NY *42-2*
2. **DANIEL ZARAGOZA**
   Mexico *53-7-3 (WBC Champ)*
3. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa *31-2 (IBF Champ)*
4. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico *43-1*
5. **ANTONIO CERMENO**
   Venezuela *25-1 (WBA Champ)*
6. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN *30-2-1*
7. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico *25-0*
8. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Laredo, TX *43-3-1*
9. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ**
   Mexico *19-0*
10. **ANGEL CHACON**
    Puerto Rico *21-0*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV *20-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa *21-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia *35-1*
4. **DAORUNG C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *58-5-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **SIRIMONGKOL SINGMANASUK**
   Thailand *12-0 (Interim WBC Champ)*
6. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana *36-3*
7. **ANCEE GEDEON**
   Westminster, CA *14-8-1*
8. **VEERAPHOL SAHAPROM**
   Thailand *5-1*
9. **ROBBIE REGAN**
   Wales *17-2-3*
10. **PAULIE AYALA**
    Ft. Worth, TX *18-0*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **HIROSHI KAWASHIMA**
   Japan *20-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM *38-0-2*
3. **DANNY ROMERO**
   Albuquerque, NM *29-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR**
   Thailand *12-0 (WBA Champ)*
5. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines *34-1-1*
6. **HYUNG CHUL LEE**
   South Korea *19-6*
7. **ALIMI GOITIA**
   Venezuela *15-1*
8. **HAROLD GREY**
   Colombia *21-2*
9. **LUIS BOLANO**
   Colombia *23-0*
10. **POLO SAUCEDO**
    Houston, TX *12-3-1*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *30-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan *23-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JOSE BONILLA**
   Venezuela *21-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **CARLOS SALAZAR**
   Argentina *43-7-2*
5. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *26-1*
6. **CHATCHAI ELITE-GYM**
   Thailand *24-1*
7. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico *33-2*
8. **ARTHUR JOHNSON**
   East St. Louis, IL *13-3*
9. **ALBERTO JIMENEZ**
   Mexico *32-4-3*
10. **JESPER JENSEN**
    Denmark *19-0*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand *33-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ *43-2 (IBF Champ)*
3. **PHICHITNOI C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *17-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **CARLOS MURILLO**
   Panama *31-3*
5. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico *47-5-4*
6. **JESUS CHONG**
   Mexico *29-7*
7. **KEIJI YAMAGUCHI**
   Japan *20-2*
8. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
   South Africa *44-10-2*
9. **HI YONG CHOI**
   South Korea *19-2*
10. **MANUEL JESUS HERRERA**
    Dominican Republic *17-5-1*

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **ROY JONES**
   Super Middleweight/Light Heavyweight
2. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Junior Welterweight
3. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
4. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Welterweight
5. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Strawweight
6. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Junior Featherweight
7. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Junior Welterweight
8. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Junior Middleweight
9. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
   Heavyweight
10. **MARK JOHNSON**
    Flyweight

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Oct. 1983: Special Hagler-Duran Program. Plus: Best fighter poll, Jose Sulaiman, Milton McCrory, Camacho-Limon, DeLeon-Gordon, Hamsho-Benitez, who's who, Bill McNeese.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

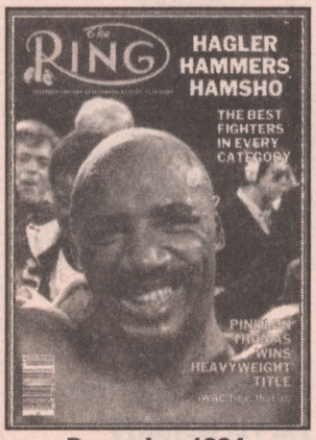
April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: Ring's ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: Olympic Special: Mark Breland Leads A Strong Squad. Plus: Leonard-Howard, Davila-Sanchez, Bonecrusher-Bruno, Bramble-Mancini, Hatcher-Bumphus, Garza-Orozco.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.



December 1984

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, boxing's best, James Broad, Julian Jackson, Pinklon Thomas.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Truth Williams, Tyrell Biggs, Greg Richardson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Paul-Blake, Witherspoon-Bonecrusher, Berbick-Bey, Pinklon Thomas.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986 (Awards Issue): Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Ring's Annual Awards, Evander Holyfield, Williamson-Muhammad, Camacho-Roach, 1985 boxing diary.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: All Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Rocky Lockridge & Roger Mayweather, Panama, Tony Burton, Chavez-Rosario, Gervacio-Espinoza, Vaca-Honeyghan.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar

Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: Carlos Monzon, Mike Tyson, Leonard-Duran, Daniel Zaragoza, Nunn-Barkley, Whitaker-Ramirez, George Foreman (color).

Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker: Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Tiger Flowers, Duran-Leonard, Chavez-Taylor preview, Jorge Paez, Ali-Cooper.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!" Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," By Evander Holyfield. Plus: James Toney, Buddy McGirt, Glenwood Brown, Aaron Davis, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan, Mark Breland, Ali-Liston II (color).

Aug. 1990: Chavez: His Greatness Confirmed ... Is He The Best Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, John L. Sullivan & Mike Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Cus D'Amato, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ, But ... Plus: Dempsey-Firpo, Charles Murray, Khaosai Galaxy, Nunn-Curry, Henry Armstrong, Sonny Liston (color).

May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Late, Still The Fight Of The Century (color). Plus: fighting at home, Mark McPherson, George Costner, Rolando Pascua, Tony Canzoneri.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Foreman-Holyfield preview, Norris-Leonard, David Kamau, Freddie Steele, Bennie Briscoe, Leonard's career (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

June 1993: Riddick Bowe: The Man, By LeRoy Nieman. Plus: All-Time Top 10: Ireland, Paul Hodkinson, Ray Mercer, Toney-Barkley, Kennedy McKinney, LeRoy Nieman (color).

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Oct. 1993: Tommy Morrison: Good Enough To Beat Big George, But Will He Win The Heavyweight Title? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Mike Capriano, Billy Conn-Joe Louis, All-Time Top 10: Puerto Rico, Charles Murray.

Dec. 1993: What If Mike Tyson Had Never Gone To Jail? Plus: Freddie Pendleton, Michael Moorer & Tommy Morrison, Willie Pep, Ed Dunkhorst, All-Time Top 10: Cuba, Tyson-Spinks (color).

Jan. 1994: Was Pernell Whitaker Robbed In San Antonio? Plus: Azumah Nelson, Willis Britt, State of the Game.

Feb. 1994: The British Are Coming! Does America Have Anything To Worry About? Plus: Felix Trinidad, Junior Jones, fight clubs (part I), Toney-Hearns.

March 1994: Evander Holyfield's Formula For Success—Obsession + Guts = Fulfillment. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Michael Bentt, Kronk, boxing novels, All-Time Top 10: Wales, fight clubs (part II).

April 1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Brown-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Garcia, Oscar De La Hoya, Tunney Hunsaker, Spinks-Foster.

May 1994 (92-Page Special) Division-By-Division: The Greatest Fighters Of All-Time. Plus: Virgil Hill & Orlando Canizales, Kostya Tszyu, James Toney, What If ... Dempsey vs. Wills.

June 1994: Moorer-Holyfield: Slugfest Or Stinker? Plus: Terry Norris, Paul Pender, Randall-Chavez I, Gonzales-Carbajal II, kickboxing.

July 1994: "I Wanna Be Like Sugar Ray": Oscar De La Hoya Becomes A Prime-Time Player. Plus: Nigel Benn, Gianfranco Rosi, Sullivan-McCaffrey, Donald-Williams, 10 likely upsets, All-Time Top 10: England.

Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Sept. 1994 (92-Page Special): How Michael Moorer Defeated Evander Holyfield, By Teddy Atlas! Plus: Chavez-Randall II, Lennox Lewis, Mando Ramos, all-time greatest cards, What If ... Duran vs. Arguello, All-Time Top 10: Scotland.

Oct. 1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The Field ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Meldrick Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

Nov. 1994: With Lewis Fighting Bowe ... Is Michael Moorer's Career Off-Target? Plus: Wayne McCullough, Hall of Fame, Alejandro Lavorante, Rocky Marciano, Paz-Duran, Injuries (part I), What If ... Pedroza vs. Sanchez.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, Injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Winter 1994 (92-Page Special): Mike Tyson: An Exclusive Interview From Behind Bars. Plus: Best of the last 100 years, Jones-Toney preview, Injuries (part III), Miguel Angel Gonzalez, Jack Sharkey, What If ... Galindez-Conteh.

Jan. 1995: A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets Boxing's Balance Of Power. Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, "Unfinished Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

Feb. 1995: Return To Greatness? Mike Tyson Doesn't Know His Future ... But The Ring Does! Plus: Pernell Whitaker, Lennox Lewis, Mark Johnson, Orlando Canizales, Tom Johnson, Irving Cohen.

March 1995 (92-Page Special): Through The Years: The Incredible Career(s) Of George Foreman. Plus: Jones-Toney, Ali in China, Chiquita-Carbajal III, Hank Kaplan.

April 1995: Roy Jones—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Ex-champs Moorer, Holyfield, Lewis, & Bowe, Chavez-Lopez & Castro-Jackson, Olzubek-Gamache, What If ... Chandler-Pintor.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

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	☐ Dec/84	☐ Oct/86	☐ Nov/88	☐ Jun/91	☐ Feb/94
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NEW FACES

ANGEL VAZQUEZ

Featherweight

By Bryan Ethier

As a raw November rainstorm batters the worn red-bricked exterior of this humble building in downtown Hartford, Connecticut, a burgeoning family gathers inside to break bread around the most unique of dining room tables.

The patriarch, olive-skinned, neatly coiffed, and clad in a casual black athletic outfit, breezes in toting a white birthday cake lathered in enough fluff to blanket all of Main Street. Smiling like a proud dad, he presents the cake to a grinning, bashful young man who looks to be in his early-20s. Quickly, the young man's comrades-in-arms muster around their makeshift counter, the apron of a boxing ring.

As the candles flicker out one by one, a shadow dances across one of the endless white-bricked walls that overlooks the ring.

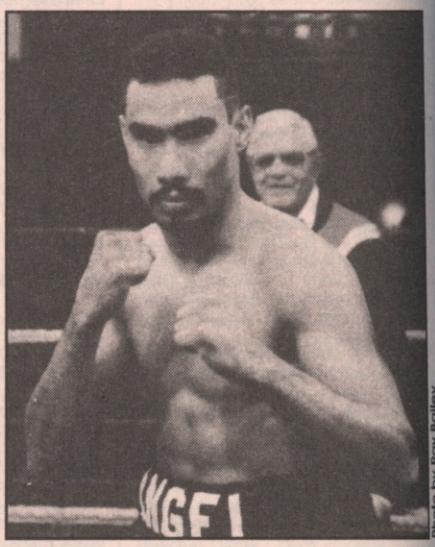

Photo by Ray Bailey

Silhouetted in conspicuous black letters midway up the wall is the family's mantra: REMEMBER—THIS IS OUR GYM; WE ARE A FAMILY.

The patriarch is George Cruz, and the setting is Hartford's San Juan Center, a non-profit gym that uses boxing as a vehicle to help inner-city youths escape the projects, crime, and drugs. The members of this family are the boxers, trainers, and managers.

"Every fighter has pride," explains Cruz, best known as the trainer of former welterweight champion Marlon Starling. "Out of the ring they're best friends and they support each other. They demand respect."

This spirit of family is most vital in the blazing chestnut eyes of undefeated 27-year-old featherweight Angel "Nito" Vazquez, the

(Continued on page 55)

Vazquez overwhelms hardened veteran Miguel Arrozal

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

PRO RECORD

1994		
May 10	Sergio Ramirez, Ledyard, CT	W 4
June 17	Mike Rafferty, Atlantic City	KO 4
June 25	Adan Aviles, Revere, MA	KO 1
Nov. 8	Luis Rosario, Ledyard	KO 1
1995		
March 14	Ramon Gonzalez, Boston	KO 1
April 22	Alan Quinones, Boston	KO 2
Aug. 6	Jose Beato, Ledyard	KO 2
Oct. 27	Manuel Santiago, New Haven, CT	W 6
Dec. 30	Lucas Pacheco, Revere	KO 1
1996		
March 12	Tony Green, Philadelphia	KO 1
April 14	Greg Torres, Ledyard	KO 2
Nov. 12	Miguel Arrozal, Philadelphia	KO 1

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KOs
12	12	0	0	10

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RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

"THE WINNER, AND *NO* HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION ... "

The first day of school is never fun, but about 35 of us future leaders of America were particularly depressed and distracted on my first day of eighth grade. There were three r's on everyone's mind that morning, all right, but they were restlessness, rowdyism, and rebellion. At one point, our teacher, the always innovative Mr. Puorro, took a look at the adolescent angst on display and suggested that maybe the long faces, griping, and staring out the window could be avoided if the school year simply started on the *second* day.

That kind of logic seemed to make perfect sense 24 years later, in the aftermath of an illogical boxing autumn that will both go down in history and live in infamy. Like masochists, some of us have been trying to put the heavyweight division into some kind of perspective following a five-week span that saw "Real Deal" Evander Holyfield upset Mike Tyson and "Surreal Deal" Andrew Golota once again beat up, and lose by DQ to, Riddick Bowe. And like trying to inspire Bowe to fulfill all of his promise or convince Golota to stop trying to use his opponent's scrotum as a speedbag, it has been an exercise in futility.

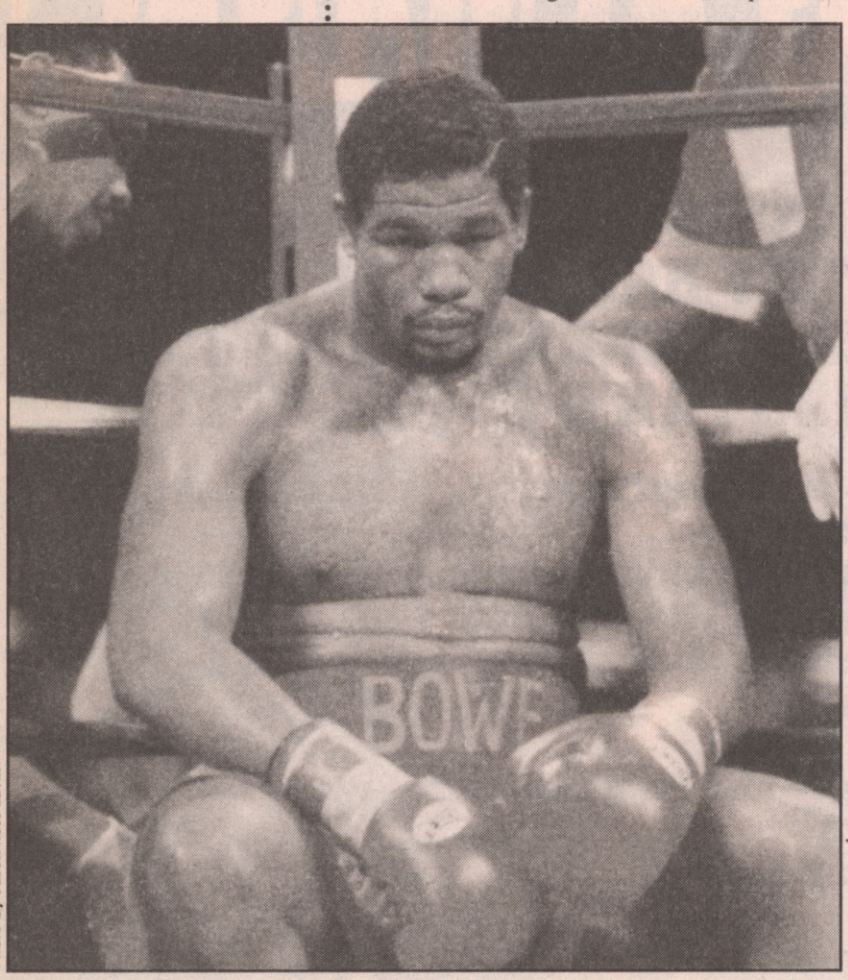


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Does this look like the best heavyweight in the world? It wasn't long ago that boxing experts were ranking Riddick Bowe at number one. But after his two dreadful performances against Andrew Golota, that's no longer the case. "Big Daddy" won twice, but nobody's celebrating.

Who is the best heavyweight in the world right now? Uh ... nobody, actually. My suggestion is that maybe the long faces, griping, and staring out the window that goes on in the editorial office of THE RING when it's time to rank the big men could be avoided if we simply led off the ratings with the *second*-best heavyweight. Well, do you have a better idea? Didn't think so.

Never mind that "parity" has six letters; it's still a four-letter word to me. It means that we're witnessing not an era, but an *error*, in heavyweight history. Doesn't anyone want to hold the highest boxing office in the land anymore? No sooner does someone throw his hat in the ring than the same candidate's corner throws in the towel right behind it. Staying power and consistency are nowhere to be found. The division is such a roll of the dice that Strat-O-Matic ought to put out a home version.

Look around and tell me who's numero uno.

Evander Holyfield would probably be the choice of many because his win over the fighter most of us thought was the best, Tyson, was both remarkable and inspiring. And the Georgian will be my pick in the rematch in May. But Holyfield's Rocky Balboaesque career revival shouldn't make us forget that The Real Deal can't conveniently leave the troubling details out of his script the way Sly Stallone can.

Remember how the eye damage that threatened Rocky Balboa's vision in *Rocky II* was never again alluded to in the final three installments of the series? Well, despite his magnificent performance against Tyson, the 34-year-old Holyfield's body still has far too many boxing miles on it. He is not the fighter he once was, and we shouldn't forget that before the Tyson fight, Holyfield hadn't looked good in a long time. I'm not convinced that his performances in the third Bowe fight and the Bobby Czyz bout were simply the result of not being motivated, as Holyfield claims. And it's tough for me to call a guy who couldn't beat a subpar and uninspired Michael Moorer the premier heavyweight in the game.

That's why Golota-Bowe II held out so much promise. Surely, the winner of that showdown would be able to lay legitimate claim to the top spot—especially if it was Bowe, who had kayoed Holyfield in their third encounter. Well, that becomes a tough argument to make when the "winner" is dropped twice, completely outpunched, and repeatedly on the verge of being knocked out in the last five rounds.

This is the second time Golota beat up Bowe, but the Pole certainly can't be considered number one in the division. Not as long as he remains as undisciplined as a kindergarten bully on a Snickers bar high. Golota is now 28-2, with both defeats coming at the hands of Andrew Golota. You get the feeling that if Golota was a running back rumbling for the winning touchdown in overtime of the Super Bowl, he'd suddenly stop at the two yard line, turn around, and fire the ball into the facemask of the nearest defender. Then, in the ensuing scramble for the pigskin, he'd get himself penalized for clipping, too.

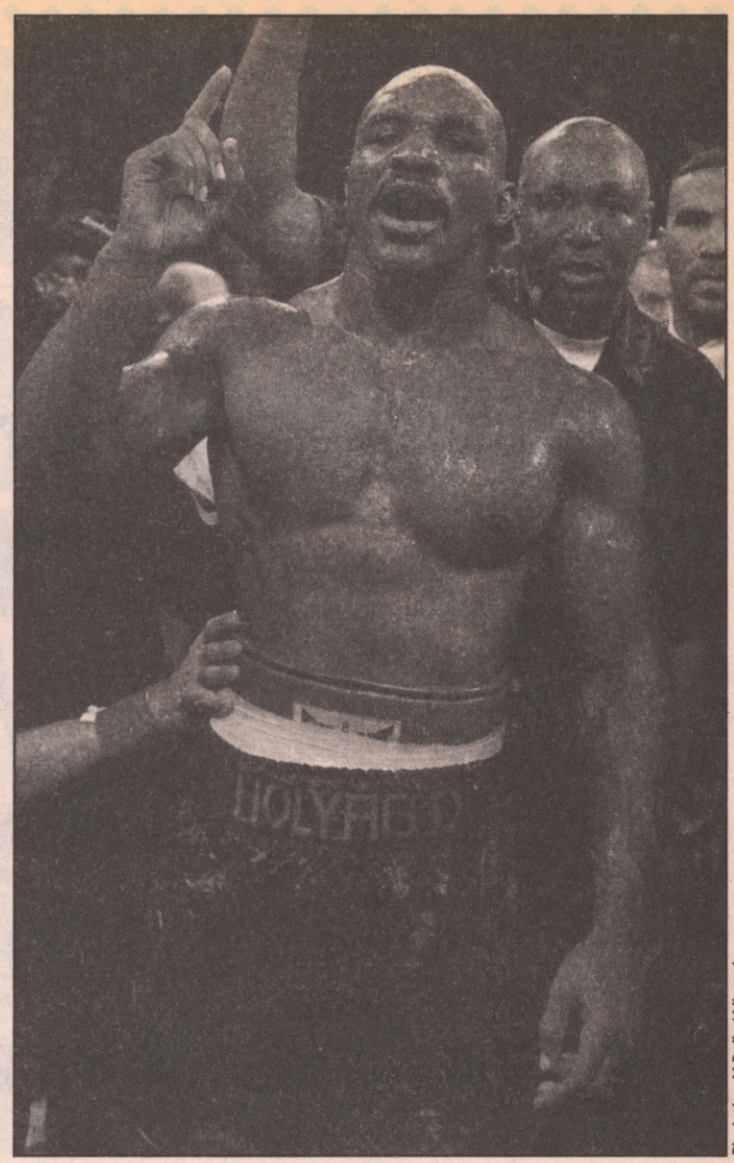


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Holyfield deserves the top spot based on his kayo of former baddest man on the planet Mike Tyson. But "The Real Deal" can't be viewed as a long-term proposition.

A colleague suggested that when you get right down to it, Lennox Lewis might be the big kahuna. I'm not buying it. Lewis got right down to it against ordinary Oliver McCall, the "it" being the canvas. And the Briton needed a gift decision to beat 35-year-old Ray Mercer in May. Lewis was so bad that night, *he* should have asked *Mercer* to take a dive. Lewis would need an orator the likes of Johnnie Cochran to plead his case for the top spot, and even then it would be a hard sell.

So who's left? Moorer? Even if we pretend he wasn't kayoed by George Foreman, a dinosaur who was fighting as a pro when Moorer was a year old, Mr. Moorer's conversion to ring pacifism would eliminate him from consideration. He has gone from wanting to leave his rivals on a slab to wanting to beat them with a jab. And he never becomes motivated until that point midway through a bout when every vein is clearly visible in exasperated trainer Teddy Atlas' forehead.

Henry Akinwande? David Tua? Good fighters who haven't beaten any of the big names. Then there's Foreman, who moved as though he was wearing a full body cast against Crawford Grimsley. The roly-poly holy man is still the linear champion. But he is now so painfully slow of hand and foot that he's capable of losing to anyone, including Jim Lampley, Larry Merchant, and Harold Lederman. (Not to mention—*gulp!*—Larry Holmes later this year.)

There are two lessons to be learned here. The first is that the phrase "upper echelon of the heavyweight division" has become an oxymoron. The second is that being a stealth heavyweight pays. A year or so ago, we were lambasting the inactive big men and praying that the gridlock in the weight class would unclog. So what happened when things heated up? The pecking order became even more clouded. Can we fault any heavyweight who now concludes that it's better to stay in mothballs and let us wonder if he might be flawed, rather than climb between the ropes and remove all doubts?

As we went to press, the first major heavyweight bout of the year was scheduled to be a Lewis-McCall rematch. Any chance we can instead start with the *second* major heavyweight fight of the year? ■

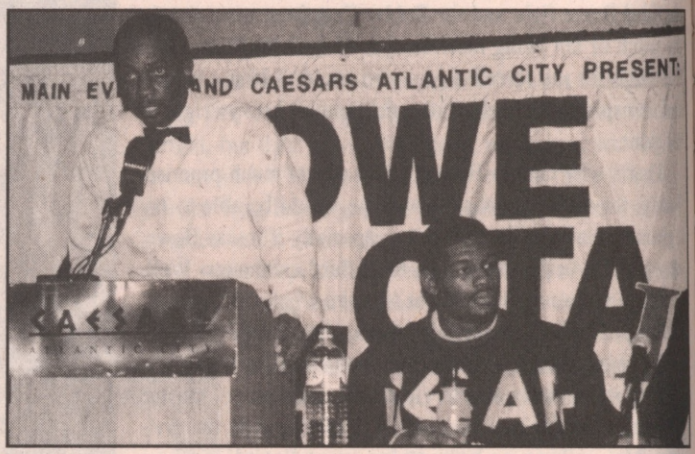
THE RING'S QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

Compiled by Thad Moore

Q: WHO IS BOXING'S BEST REFEREE?

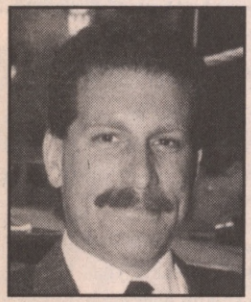
Emanuel Steward, trainer: "Eddie Cotton, who we just saw in the Riddick Bowe-Andrew Golota rematch, has done a very good job. When Bowe was hurt, Cotton could've stopped the fight a couple of different times. He gave Bowe a chance to recover when he was hurt. He did a great job of letting these guys fight. Then when the low blows were landing, he stepped in and stopped the fight at the right time.

"With Bowe and Golota fighting, things definitely could've gotten out of control. Cotton didn't let that happen and had total control of the fight. With the bad blood between the fighters, Cotton was in charge."



Referee Eddie Cotton spoke at the press conference following Bowe-Golota II, and most agreed he had done the right thing in stopping the fight.

Q: WHO IS THE BEST FIGHTER AMONG THE 1996 U.S. OLYMPIANS?



Brad Jacobs, matchmaker for the USA Network: "There isn't one fighter I can point to at this stage. There isn't anyone who is outstanding from the rest of the group. Terrance Cauthen is trained well and has looked pretty good so far. He looks like he has the tools to be successful, but at this stage it's hard to tell.

"David Reid is untested, but his style is well-suited for the pros. He has power. He will have to prove himself professionally, as do all these fighters. Reid signed an exorbitant contract. His win in the Olympics was dramatic. But when put in the same position in the pros, when he needs to do something dramatic to win, it may not happen.

"While Cauthen has the potential to be very good, he's not well-known. Even Reid, who won the gold medal, is not that well-known. They aren't known like Pernell Whitaker and Mark Breland in 1984. NBC's plan of showing sports that target a female audience may hurt many of these guys' chances of becoming known to the public. Nobody clamors to see fighters who have had little exposure."

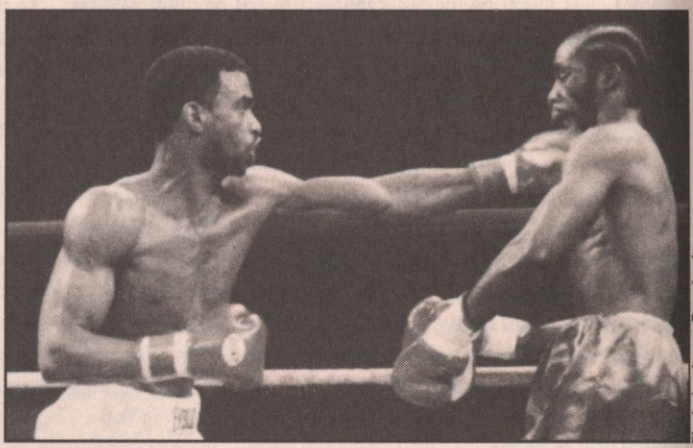


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Philadelphia lightweight Terrance Cauthen, a 1996 Olympian, turned pro with a four-round decision over Victor Miller on the Bowe-Golota II card. Cauthen is a tall southpaw with exceptional hand speed. He's handled by Joe and Marvis Frazier.

What do boxing's insiders think of the hot issues? Each month, we'll come up with four or five questions, then grill the experts. If there's a topic you'd like examined, send your question to The Ring, Questions Of The Month, P.O. Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034

Q: SHOULD OPEN SCORING BE IMPLEMENTED IN BOXING?

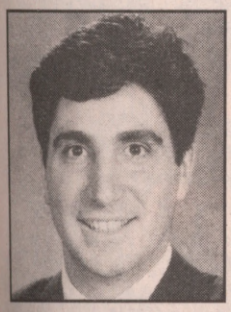
Hank Kaplan, boxing historian: "I don't know if it would be positive or negative. We're used to the element of suspense in a fight, and we'd like to stick with it. If a fighter is behind, then he'd know the score. But I think most fighters would like to keep the status quo.

"Tradition is part of it. If both fighters know the scoring, there is no advantage to either guy. I think most fighters know who is ahead in their fights. And the patronage would know that one guy won all 10 rounds. I think the fans prefer the mystery of the fight.

"One good thing is that open scoring might help make better judges. It would keep them on their toes and eliminate some of their prejudices. It might standardize the way guys judge fights. Some judges like the fighter who goes for the home run, others like the fighter who piles up points. With open scoring, the judges might converge on the same system.

"But the guys who buy tickets to see fights won't care for open scoring. They like the element of surprise, the element of suspense. If a fight is a non-contest, with one guy winning every round, it will be boring to watch the last six rounds. If the fans don't know the score, they'll watch with a lot more interest."

Q: WHO IS THE MOST UNDERRATED FIGHTER IN THE GAME TODAY?



Bob Papa, blow-by-blow announcer for ESPN and ESPN2: "Pernell Whitaker has become underrated. Everyone says Whitaker is imminently beatable. People say he's at the end of the line, but he keeps winning. Whitaker is still very quick in the ring. What he has lost in speed, he's gained in ring smarts.

"He is a tremendous defensive fighter. He hits his opponents enough and doesn't get hit in return. He is not the crowd-pleasing fighter in the mold of an Arturo Gatti or even an Andrew Golota, but he is very effective. It's tougher on fighters to beat a southpaw. He knows how to make his style tough on opponents.

"Whitaker and Oscar De La Hoya are both former Olympic gold medalists, and a showdown would be a big fight. The buildup and hype might affect the outcome. De La Hoya is the most interesting fight for Whitaker. I think Whitaker could use his ring savvy to beat Oscar. I think he's one of the few who could beat him.

"Whitaker's superior boxing skill would carry him through against Ike Quartey. I think he would beat Felix Trinidad, who is not the same fighter he was a couple of years ago.

"Whitaker has become an afterthought because of the way Roy Jones has been fighting, and with Evander Holyfield knocking out Mike Tyson, he's been forgotten. Depending on his conditioning, I think he can easily stay at this level for the next two years."

Pernell Whitaker (right) with Zabdiel Judah, the young pro often compared to "Sweet Pea." ESPN announcer Bob Papa believes Whitaker has become underrated. A showdown with De La Hoya will tell us how much Whitaker has left.

NIGEL BENN SAYS

By Brian Doogan

Quitting on a stool never seemed a plausible climax to the career of Nigel Benn. A veritable warrior, he had exchanged blows with hard men who had taken him more than once to the edge of the abyss. Here he was at his most dangerous, potentially one punch from crushing catastrophe, but also one punch from acquainting his opponent with oblivion.

Anthony Logan was exposed to this terrible reality in a Commonwealth middleweight title encounter in 1988. Teetering toward semi-consciousness, Benn threw everything he had into a wild left swing that terminated "The Terminator" and salvaged victory from what was shaping up to be his first professional defeat. Iran Barkley got bombed out in a one-round thriller that was decided as much by who was faster to the draw as by who carried the more lethal punch. And Lou Gent, who didn't box like one, was ungently put to sleep after putting Benn in more distress than a journeyman might have expected to.

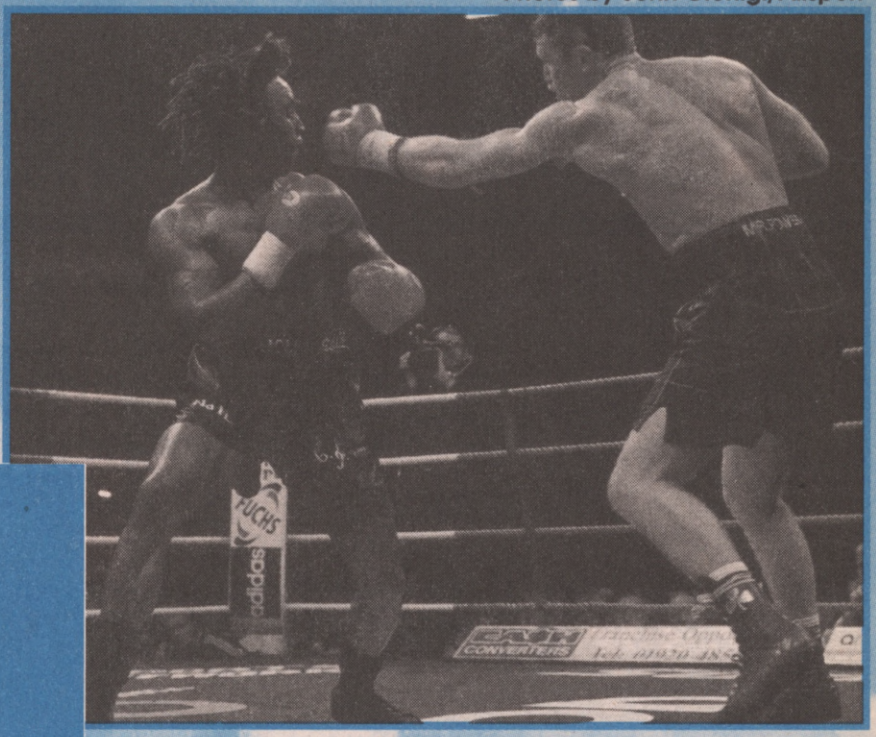
Somewhere in between, Benn tasted defeat twice, first to Michael Watson in a fight that demonstrated the limitations of anyone who brings

(Continued on page 56)

When Benn took the ring microphone and again announced his retirement, the fans booed him. They were upset that he had quit on his stool in his rematch with Steve Collins.

GOODBYE (AGAIN)

Photos by John Gichigi/Allsport



Why The Warrior Wimped Out

As in their first fight, the rugged Collins kept Benn on the defensive with jabs (above) and sweeping hooks (below). However, neither fighter was able to establish command, which made Benn's sudden surrender all the more curious.

THE YEAR THAT WAS ...

By Steve Farhood

Maybe boxing signed a pact with the devil for an alternate-year plan. Three years ago, feel-good George Foreman made the world smile with his unlikely kayo of Michael Moorer. Two years ago, the biggest story was Mike Tyson's release from prison and return to the ring. Tyson W Disq. 1 Peter McNeeley was the bestselling pay-per-view fight, which tells you all you need to know. In 1996, Evander Holyfield played the role of Big George, kayoing Tyson in one of the biggest—and most popular—upsets in history.

So what about 1997? Here's to hoping some judge in New Jersey rules that contract null and void and then introduces the devil to Paul Tagliabue or Bud Selig.

THE FIGHT(S) AFTER THE FIGHT

Big-time boxing was a main course at Madison Square Garden throughout 1996, but the dessert served on July 11 left a most bitter taste.

Seconds after Andrew Golota was disqualified in round seven for repeatedly punching low vs. Riddick Bowe, "Big Daddy's" manager, Rock Newman, and Bowe entourage members Jason Harris and Bernard Brooks Sr. rushed the ring. A free-for-all brawl broke out that saw Harris clock Golota on the head with a mobile phone—the heavyweight suffered a 13-stitch cut—and Golota handler Lou Duva, 74, removed from the ring on a stretcher.

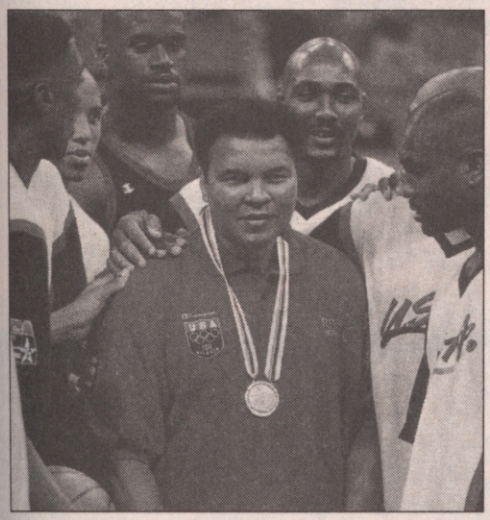
Worse yet, the hand-to-hand combat spread outside the squared circle. Fights broke out throughout the arena, chairs were tossed, and after about 25 minutes of chaos, there were 14 arrests and 22 minor injuries, eight of which were suffered by police officers.

The aftermath: Harris was arrested and charged with assault and reckless endangerment (he subsequently received a five-year suspended sentence); Newman was fined $250,000, and his promotional license was suspended; and when the rematch landed in Atlantic City, the Garden said, "Bon appetit!"

In fact, Bowe-Golota II turned out to be just as wild as the original—without the extracurricular activity. In a brutal brawl that saw both fighters rise from the canvas, Golota, far ahead on points, was again DQ'd for punching low, this time in round nine.

Some of the fun and games that followed Bowe-Golota I

... Was Sealed By "The Real Deal"



In Atlanta, "The Greatest" mingled with Dream Team III

A BIT OF THIS, A BIT OF THAT

•**Muhammad Ali** again displayed his ability to move the entire world when he lit the flame at the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

•Philadelphia's **David Reid** came from behind to score a one-punch kayo of Cuba's Alfredo Duvergel in round three of the light middleweight championship match at the Games. Reid was the USA's only gold medalist.

•Among those inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame were former world champion **Aaron Pryor**, **Wilfred Benitez**, **Joe Brown**, and **Manuel Ortiz**.

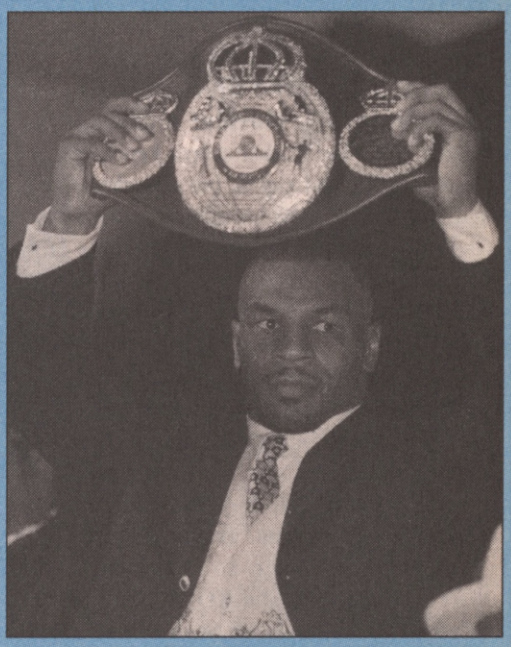
•In October, **President Clinton** signed into law H.R.4167, an act of Congress to "provide for the safety of journeymen boxers." All matches must now be sanctioned by state authorities. Furthermore, minimum safety standards have been set.

MIKE'S SEAT ON THE ROLLERCOASTER

Was it a good year or bad for Mike Tyson? It was good, we suppose, that the once-baddest man on the planet finished 1995 with a pair of welcome-back wins over Peter McNeeley and Buster Mathis Jr. Things got more meaningful, but not necessarily much better, in March '96, when he regained a portion of the heavyweight title, blowing out a reluctant Frank Bruno in three. The engaging Englishman set an all-time record by crossing himself about a dozen times before the opening bell. Tyson crossed his right about half as often, and the fight was over.

Politics forced Tyson to vacate the title, but in September, he collected the WBA crown, flooring Bruce Seldon with a punch that clearly missed before halting him inside of a round. Though no fault of his own, the fight did little for Tyson. The same cannot be said of Seldon, who gained worldwide prominence, albeit as the punchline to a thousand degrading jokes.

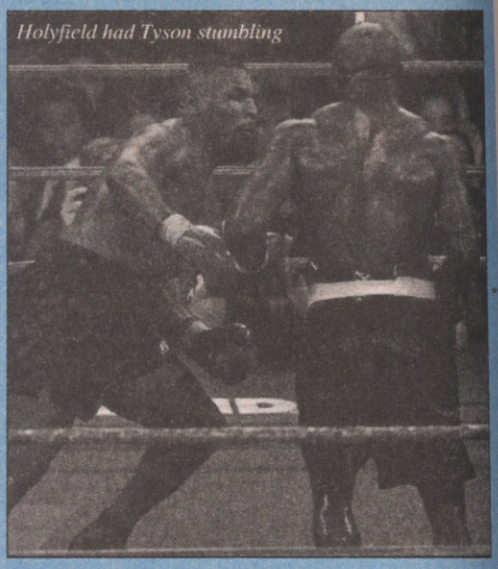
What Tyson needed was credibility, and when Las Vegas sports books made him a 24-1 favorite to defeat a presumably rocking chair-ready Evander Holyfield, that seemed out of his reach. The fight settled at a more reasonable 8-1, and it turned out that Holyfield was out of Tyson's reach, too. In a thrilling, chilling classic, "The Real Deal" not only stood up to Tyson, but knocked him down en route to taking the title by 11th-round TKO. Tyson's New Year's resolution: revenge in a rematch. In '97, we'll found out about the mettle of "Iron Mike."



Tyson kept the WBA belt for a lot less time than expected

THE THREE BEST TITLE FIGHTS

Evander Holyfield KO 11 Mike Tyson, November 9, Las Vegas: Holyfield is carried by an unwavering confidence, despite the fact that Tyson opens as a 24-1 favorite. WBA heavyweight champion Tyson goes for an early knockout and seems lost upon finding himself in the middle rounds. Repeatedly countering with straight rights, Holyfield scores a flash knockdown in the sixth, then dictates to a tiring Tyson until pummeling him in the 10th and halting him early in the 11th. The Real Deal joins Muhammad Ali as the only three-time winner of the heavyweight title.



Holyfield had Tyson stumbling

Arturo Gatti KO 6 Wilson Rodriguez, March 23, New York City: Sylvester Stallone wouldn't dare choreograph fight scenes like this. Battered, beaten to the punch, and boxing with both eyes hideously swollen, IBF junior lightweight champion Gatti launches a desperation rally. His Hollywood hooks and bodyblows catch Dominican veteran Rodriguez, and after surviving a couple of breathless toe-to-toe rounds, Gatti scores a one-punch kayo.

Frankie Liles KO 3 Tim Littles, June 8, Newcastle, England: A see-saw affair filled with fouls and knockdowns. WBA super middleweight champion Liles, who beat Littles three times as an amateur but suffered his only pro loss in their previous clash, drops his rival in the first and second rounds. Littles rebounds to drive the champion through the ropes in the third before being floored face-first for the count by a right hook.

The runners-up: Ike Quartey W 12 Oba Carr, Wayne McCullough W 12 Jose Luis Bueno, Wilfredo Vazquez KO 11 Eloy Rojas, Phillip Holiday W 12 Ivan Robinson

THE THREE BEST NON-TITLE FIGHTS

Marco Antonio Barrera KO 12 Kennedy McKinney, February 3, Inglewood, California: Based on pace, sustained action, and skill level, rates a 10. Junior featherweight McKinney is downed four times and scores one knockdown of his own. Barrera has the look of greatness.

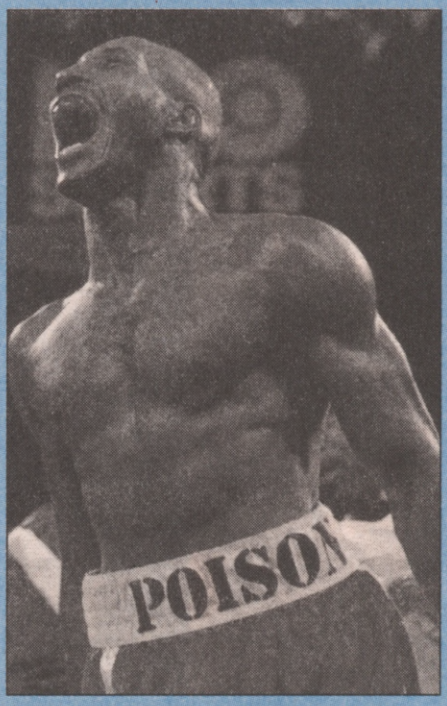
Kevin Kelley KO 8 Derrick Gainer, June 15, Jacksonville, Florida: Another Kelley thriller. The New Yorker scores knockdowns in the third, fifth, and eighth, but goes down in the fourth and battles with his right eye swollen shut. Gainer's ahead on two cards at the time of the stoppage.

Riddick Bowe W Disq. 7 Andrew Golota, July 11, New York City: Big guys throwing big punches in the Big Building. Some of Golota's bombs land low, and Bowe is saved from a probable kayo loss when his rival is DQ'd. Unfortunately, there were some pretty good fights afterward, too. By the way, make this an entry; Bowe-Golota II was quite memorable as well.

The runners-up: Lennox Lewis W 10 Ray Mercer, Rocky Gannon KO 10 Richard Hall, Skipper Kelp W 10 Adrian Stone, Christy Martin W 6 Deidre Gogarty

... AND THREE HIGH-PROFILE PUNCHOUTS

Oscar De La Hoya KO 4 Julio Cesar Chavez, June 7, Las Vegas: The year's most anticipated non-heavyweight matchup proves anticlimactic when defending WBC super lightweight champion Chavez suffers a cut over his left eye a minute into the first round. De La Hoya cruises as Chavez bleeds his way to a stoppage loss.



Jones' kayo of Barrera had him screaming for joy

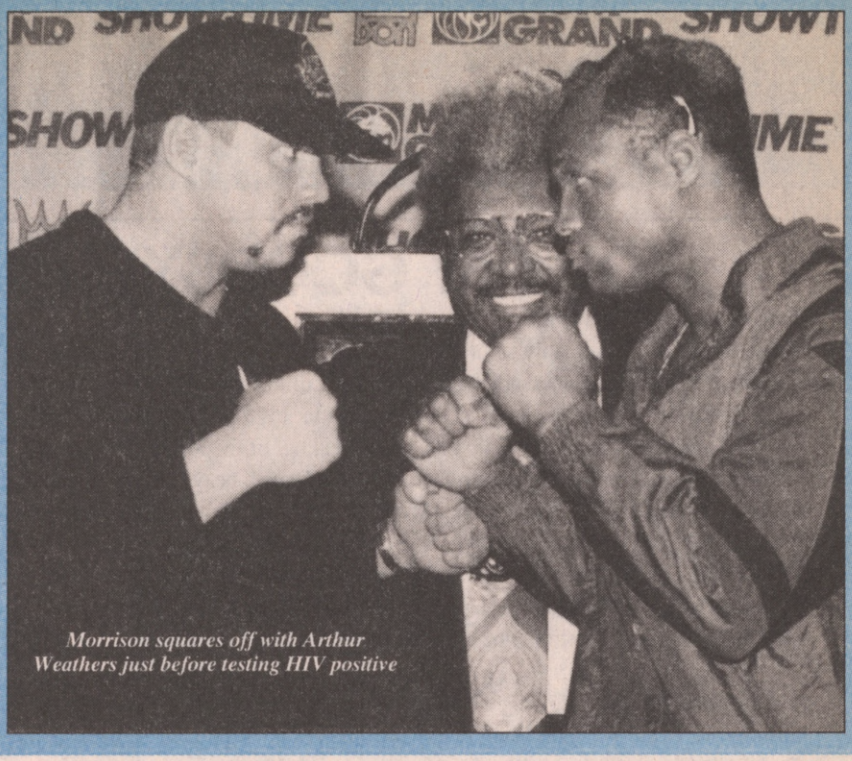
Junior Jones W Disq. 5 Marco Antonio Barrera, November 22, Tampa: A fighter once touted for greatness crushes one who had seemingly secured that label earlier in the year. Junior featherweight Jones can't miss with his straight right, and Barrera suffers his first loss in 44 bouts.

Vinny Pazienza KO 4 Dana Rosenblatt, August 23, Atlantic City: In a classic crossroads battle, unbeaten, untested southpaw Rosenblatt punishes Paz for three rounds, then crumbles when "The Devil" connects with one hell of an overhand right.

THE DUKE AND HIS DEMONS

Wasn't Tommy Morrison supposed to fade away after being exposed in his October 1995 kayo loss to Lennox Lewis? In fact, the heavyweight made more headlines than ever in '96. On the afternoon of February 10, Morrison, 27, was suspended by the Nevada State Athletic Commission after testing HIV positive. At an emotional press conference, "The Duke" said he had "had the opportunity to be a role model and blew it." He retired, and boxing was forced to reexamine its relationship with AIDS.

But what's a farewell without at least one encore? In November, Morrison reappeared, scoring a first-round kayo of Marcus Rhode on the Foreman-Grimsley undercard in Tokyo. He said it was a one-time thing, a fundraiser for his foundation fighting AIDS in children. But if there's one thing we've learned about Morrison, it's that he's just as unpredictable outside the ring as inside.



Morrison squares off with Arthur Weathers just before testing HIV positive

BOXING'S BETTER HALF?

Purists hate to admit it, but women's boxing is not going to quietly fade away. The ladies made unprecedented strides in '96, thanks largely to reluctant pioneer Christy Martin. In February, Martin fought on Showtime. One month later, she and Deidre Gogarty, whom Martin outpointed over six rounds, engaged in a bloody war that saved the Tyson-Bruno pay-per-view card. In April, "The Coal Miner's Daughter" graced the cover of *Sports Illustrated*. And in November, she was paid a career-high $75,000 to kayo Bethany Payne on the Holyfield-Tyson undercard.

People like to watch Martin fight. Actually, people like her, period. She shined on the talk-show circuit and starred on an ESPN commercial with Charley Steiner. Her promoter, Don King, gave her a BMW, and endorsements seem only a signature away.

In August, the USA Network televised its first women's bout on *Tuesday Night Fights*. While Kathleen Collins was upsetting Andrea DeShong, USA conducted a call-in poll, and of the 50,000 viewers who responded, 81 percent said they wanted to see more women's boxing on the tube.

We were chartin' Martin's progress in '96

Photo by Jay Lash

THE YEAR'S BIGGEST SURPRISE

Ready for a shocker? At the end of the year, there were more sanctioning bodies than at the start! The latest addition is something called the World Boxing Board, which is based in El Paso, Texas. Among the WBB's policies: "Advocating properly attired officials (including round-card carriers)." They're already off our list for that alone.

Sorry if we left anyone out, but the WBB joins the WBA, WBC, WBU, WBO, WBF, IBF, IBO, and IBC. And to think, they all love boxing, which is obviously a lucky, lucky sport.

YOU SAY GOODBYE, I SAY HELLO

How many of the following will fight again?

•**Nigel Benn**, 32, presumably set a record by retiring three times, after losing the WBC super middleweight title to Sugarboy Malinga, then again after successive defeats to Steve Collins.

•**Henry Maske**, 32, kept his promise and retired after his light heavyweight unification points defeat vs. Virgil Hill.

•**Larry Holmes**, 47, and CBS both made a big deal out of the former champion's "last fight," a kayo of Anthony Willis. As we went to press, Holmes was scheduled to face unbeaten Danish heavyweight Brian Nielsen.

•**Chiquita Gonzalez**, 30, said goodbye just before a scheduled bout against Baby Jake Matlala.

•**Tony Lopez**, 33, exited after a points loss to Charles Murray.

•**Eloy Rojas**, 29, retired following his title fight kayo loss to Wilfredo Vazquez.

•**Frank Bruno**, 35, left shortly after his kayo loss to Mike Tyson.

•**Shinji Takehara**, 24, retired due to a detached retina suffered during his title fight kayo loss to William Joppy.

***

And how many of the following should never have left the rocking chair to launch a comeback?

•**Sammy Serrano**, 44, upon being released from prison, outpointed Samuel Mejias.

•**Dwight Davison**, 41, lost a 12-round decision to Ed White.

•**Donny Lalonde**, 36, won a decision over Big Ed Dalton, but tore his left rotator cuff in the process.

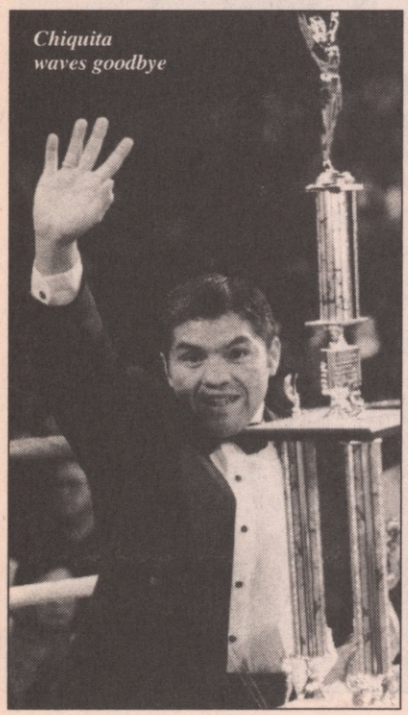
•**Buddy McGirt**, 32, went from trainer back to fighter and scored a kayo of Israel Figueroa.

•**Shawn O'Sullivan**, 34, traveled from Canada to Louisville and halted someone named Lue Terry.

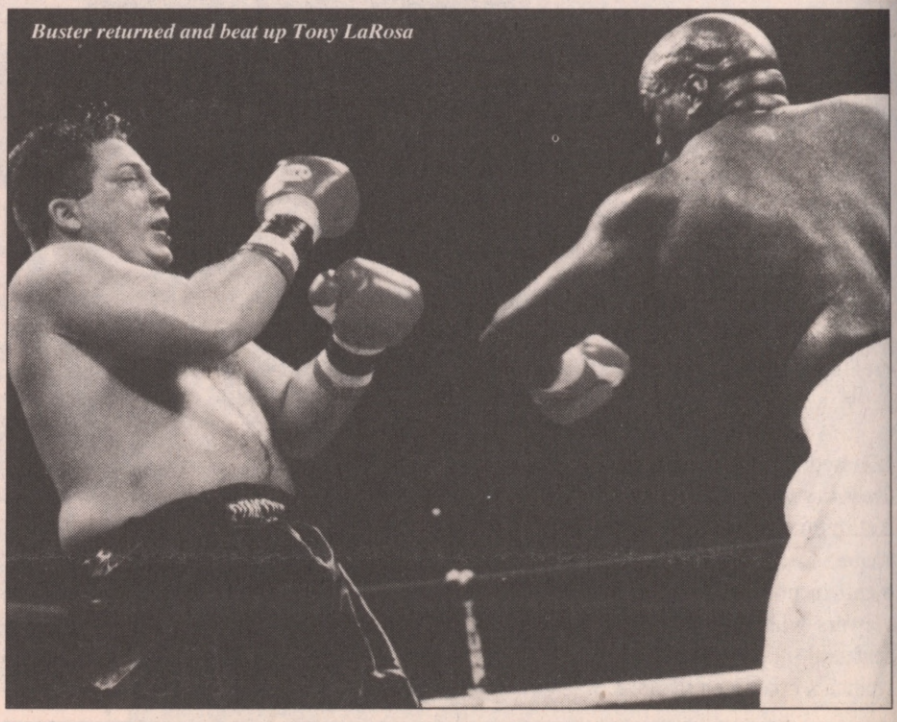
•**Buster Douglas**, 36, butchered Tony LaRosa. Douglas scaled 244 pounds for his first fight since losing the heavyweight title to Evander Holyfield in 1990.

•**Chris Eubank**, 30, kayoed Luis Barrera in Cairo.

•**John Mugabi**, 36, outpointed Australian cruiserweight champion Peter Kinsella. "The Beast" hadn't fought in five years.



Chiquita waves goodbye



Buster returned and beat up Tony LaRosa

THE FINAL COUNT

The following boxing figures died in '96:

•**Dan Duva**, 44, promoter, of brain cancer. Under Duva's direction, Main Events promoted such superbouts as Leonard-Hearns I and Holyfield-Foreman, and such fighters as Pernell Whitaker, Meldrick Taylor, Mark Breland, Rocky Lockridge, and Andrew Golota.

•**Murray Goodman**, 82, publicist, who counted among his boxing clients the IBC, Madison Square Garden, and Don King.

•**Gil Turner**, 65, former welterweight contender, in Philadelphia. In his only shot at a world title, Turner lost to Kid Gavilan in 1952.

•**George Kanter**, 81, veteran international booking agent who specialized in European fighters. Kanter most recently worked with unbeaten heavyweight Henry Akinwande.

•**Luis Rodriguez**, 59, former world welterweight champion, after undergoing two years of kidney dialysis. The Miami-based Cuban, who engaged in a classic four-fight series with Emile Griffith, is regarded as one of the classiest boxers of all-time.

Luis Rodriguez gets an earful from Muhammad Ali in 1967

•**Gregorio Benitez**, 67, father and first trainer of triple-crown champion Wilfred Benitez.

•**Jesus "Bebe" Gallardo**, 32, sparring partner for Julio Cesar Chavez, shot to death in the lobby of the Holiday Inn in Toluca, Mexico, where Chavez was training.

•**Eddie Aliano**, 77, internationally renowned cutman, after a lengthy illness. "The Clot" worked with dozens of world champs, including Sugar Ray Leonard and Mike Tyson.

•**Tony Pellone**, 68, former lightweight contender, in Brooklyn. In the late-'40s, Pellone was regularly featured on *Friday Night Fights*.

•**Lance Hobson**, 23, an Australian featherweight, of brain injuries suffered during a bout in Melbourne vs. Liu Gang.

•**Gilbert Odd**, 93, British author and historian. Odd is a member of the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

•**Tommy Collins**, 67, former featherweight and lightweight contender, in Boston. A gritty fighter who regularly tackled heavier opponents, Collins was best remembered for suffering 10 knockdowns in a 1953 title fight loss to then-lightweight king Jimmy Carter. Public outcry following the fight helped create the three-knockdown rule.

•**Al Silvani**, 85, veteran cornerman, of cancer, in Studio City, California. Silvani worked with a slew of world champs, and taught several actors how to fight for their roles in Hollywood films.

•**Babe Griffin**, 59, promoter, in a nursing home in Los Gatos, California. Griffin worked with, among others, Bobby Chacon and Pete Ranzany.

•**Fabrizio DeChiara**, 25, Italian middleweight, from brain injuries suffered in a kayo loss to Vincenzo Imparto in the town of Massa.

•**Joe Martin**, 80, former police officer, in Louisville. Martin introduced a young boy named Cassius Clay to boxing.

•**Rey Hernandez**, 29, Mexican flyweight, 30 hours after suffering brain injuries in a kayo loss to Mike Trejo in San Marcos, Texas.

•**Sailor Don Sauer**, 71, of cancer. Sauer, a longtime columnist for THE RING, worked as a booking agent, trainer, cornerman, and manager.

•**Allan Malamud**, 54, veteran Los Angeles boxing writer and columnist, of natural causes.

•**Melio Bettina**, 80, former light heavyweight champion, from the effects of diabetes. Bettina won the vacant New York State world title in 1939, stopping Tiger Jack Fox in nine rounds.

•**Mel Greb**, 75, longtime Las Vegas-based matchmaker, after suffering a stroke. Greb was one of the grand old men of the game.

THE PUNCHLINE OF THE YEAR

"No one cares if my children starve or if they're on welfare. No one is gonna help my children."
–Mike Tyson, after earning only $30-million for his kayo of Frank Bruno

BATTLE of the LEGENDS

Middleweights

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle of the Legends," the editors of THE RING play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, write to us.

Gene Fullmer

West Jordan, Utah
Career: 1951-1963
55-6-3 with 24 kayos

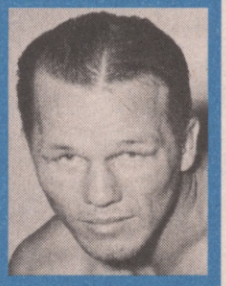
Awkward, steel-chinned, and stronger than just about any other middleweight, the 5'8" Fullmer was defeating contenders in his third year as a pro. From 1957 to '63, he engaged in at least one title fight per year (with the exception of 1958). His opposition reads like a roll call of all-time greats: Sugar Ray Robinson, Carmen Basilio, Dick Tiger, Joey Giardello, and Benny Paret.

In 1957, Fullmer shocked defending middleweight champion Robinson, outpointing him over 15 rounds. He lost the rematch, a fifth-round victim of Robinson's left hook, considered the most perfect punch ever thrown.

In 1959, Fullmer stopped Basilio to win the vacant NBA title. He made seven successful defenses, including a pair vs. Robinson, before losing on points to Tiger in 1962. A subsequent draw and stoppage loss to Tiger ended his career.

Tony Zale

Gary, Indiana
Career: 1934-1948
67-18-2 with 45 kayos



Zale was nicknamed "The Man Of Steel" not only because of his work in the mills of Indiana, but also due to his fighting style. Courageous and determined, he welcomed a brawl, willing to test his iron chin and devastating bodypunches against all opposition. The division's reputation was built on fighters like Zale.

In his 59th fight, the 5'8" Zale won the NBA title by stopping Al Hostak (KO 13). He subsequently captured the world crown with a 15-round decision over Georgie Abrams. After losing a non-title bout to light heavyweight Billy Conn, he served in World War II. The layoff lasted three years. Upon his return, he engaged in a historic and savage three-fight series with Rocky Graziano, winning the first and third bouts.

At age 35, Zale was dethroned via 12th-round kayo by Marcel Cerdan. It was the last fight of his career.

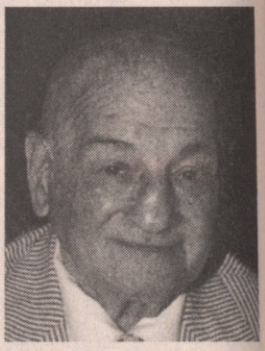
Fullmer trades with Florentino Fernandez during their NBA middleweight title fight in 1961. Boxing on his home turf, Fullmer kept the crown by split 15-round decision.

AL BRAVERMAN

Nobody was stronger than Fullmer. He had that awkward style, with wild swings from here to China. He didn't care; the body, the head—he'd hit you on the elbow and hurt your arm. He was very unorthodox, like Marciano. By the time he finished punching, his head would be near the floor and you couldn't counterpunch. That's why he beat Sugar Ray Robinson the first time. Awkward guys are always tough to fight. And as strong as Fullmer was physically, that's how strong his chin was. He'd shake off a punch like it was nothing.

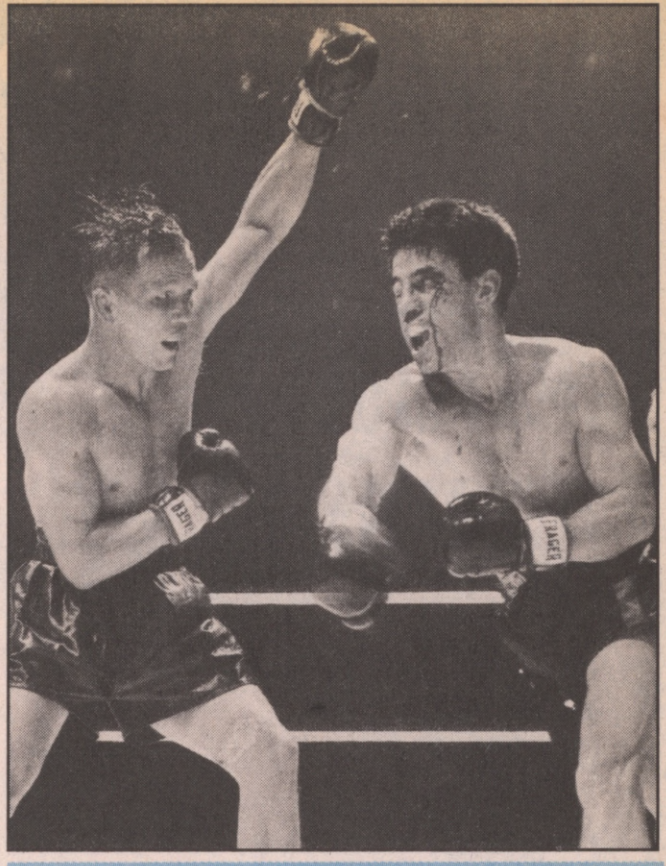
Zale was a tough, hard-rock guy. I used to see him spar every day at Stillman's Gym. Believe me, he deserved the nickname The Man Of Steel. He was a standup fighter and a big bodypuncher. He was continually pressing forward. It didn't matter what you hit him with; he'd take a helluva shot and come on again. People remember him from the fights with Graziano, but Zale was a better fighter before the war.

Nobody was gonna change Zale's style, so both guys would come forward. But The Man Of Steel would melt under Fullmer's pressure. Fullmer was one of the best of all-time. He'd beat Zale on points.



Al Braverman is a longtime manager and trainer. He currently serves as the Director of Boxing for Don King Productions.

Early in his career, more than two years before his first title shot, Fullmer crashes a right into the jaw of Peter Muller. Advancing to 26-0, he defeated the German by unanimous 10-round decision in Brooklyn.



All ring wars, regardless of weight class, are measured against Zale's three rumbles with Rocky Graziano. Like Fullmer, "The Man Of Steel" enjoyed an old-fashioned back-alley brawl.

JOEY GIARDELLO

Fullmer was very awkward. He'd come forward, try to wear you down, but he was no big puncher. His strength was his head. When we fought, he butted me and butted me and butted me until I butted him back. I cut him up and he didn't butt me anymore. Fullmer was no boxer. I beat the s___ out of him, but it was his hometown (actually Bozeman, Montana), and he got a draw. I hurt him a few times and Sugar Ray Robinson knocked him out. He had a better-than-average chin, but not a great one.

Zale was a great fighter, good and tough, but no boxer either. He always trained hard and was all business; if you dropped your hands, he was gonna hit you hard. He was a good puncher, too, especially to the body. Graziano was a *great* puncher, and Zale did a job on him two out of three. Zale hit a lot harder than Fullmer.

This would be a bloody fight, with lots of clashing of heads. Both guys would come forward and meet in the middle of the ring. Zale might've had a bit of trouble with Fullmer because he wasn't a boxer like me. Still, he'd prove to be too much of a puncher. Zale by knockout in round six.

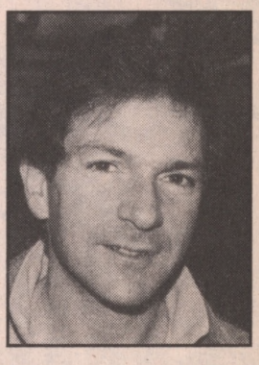
Joey Giardello is a former world middleweight champion. In 1960, he challenged then-NBA middleweight titlist Fullmer, fighting to a 15-round draw.

STEVE LOTT

Both middleweights fought great fighters, and both were so tough, but their styles were very different. Fullmer was very unorthodox. He had a terrible jab, but he'd punch often and from a lot of angles, just not that crisply. He'd fight with his hands up, but he still got hit. He and Zale threw punches very differently. Still, they had one thing in common: They could be cautious, but once they punched, they tried to kill you with every shot.

If orthodox fighters like Sugar Ray Robinson gave the unorthodox Fullmer trouble, unorthodox fighters like Rocky Graziano gave the orthodox Zale problems. Zale was a classical fighter. His punches were carefully planned, and he threw them at precise angles. He was a tremendous left hooker; in the third Graziano fight, he knocked him out with the same combination he used all fight: a right to the body and a hook to the head.

These fighters would duke it out, taking turns initiating the offense. The deciding factor would be Zale's precision. Robinson knocked out Fullmer with a left hook while walking away. That makes me wonder. Zale by TKO in the seventh, eighth, or ninth round.

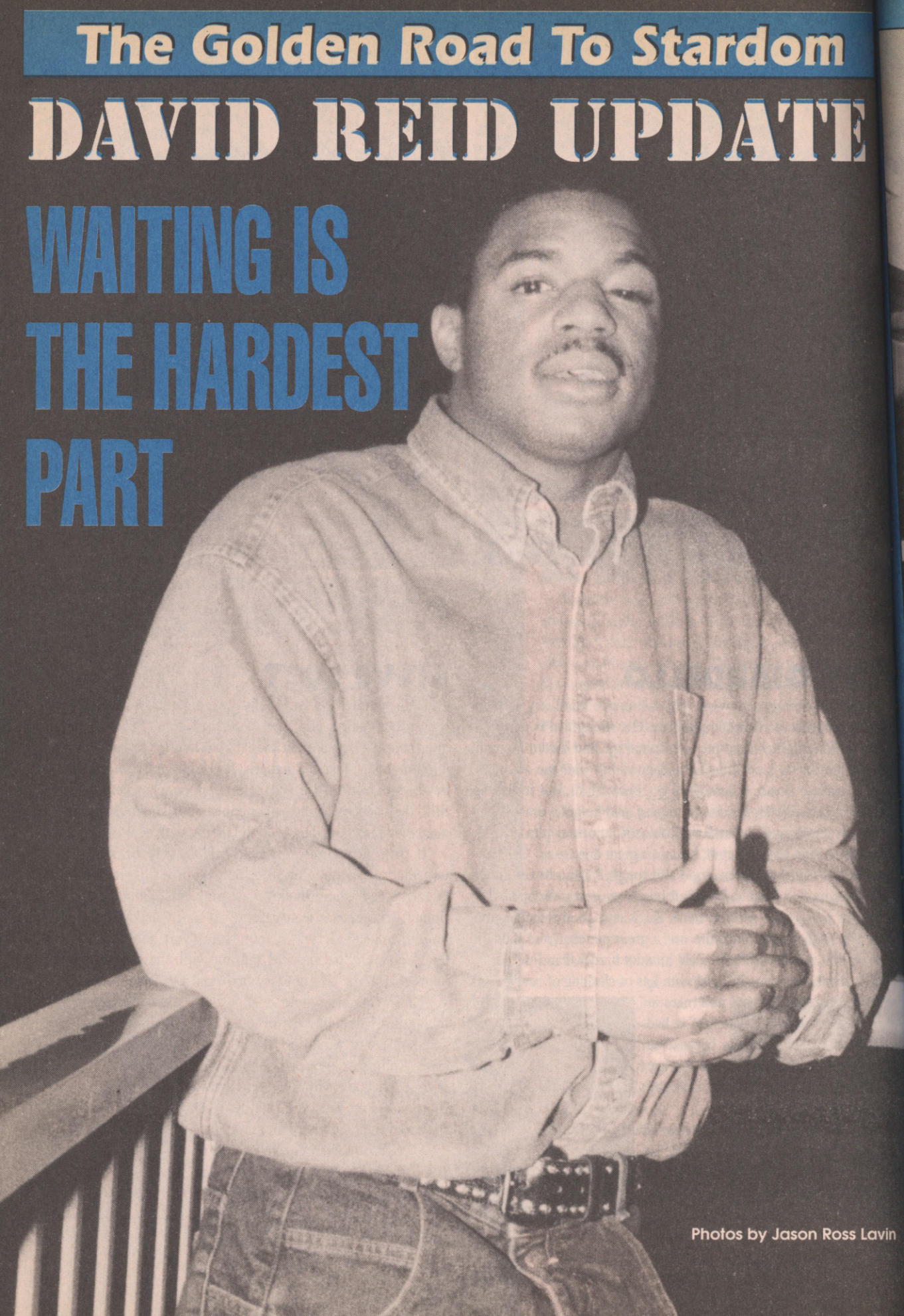


Steve Lott is executive producer for Big Fights Inc., which owns the world's largest collection of fight films.

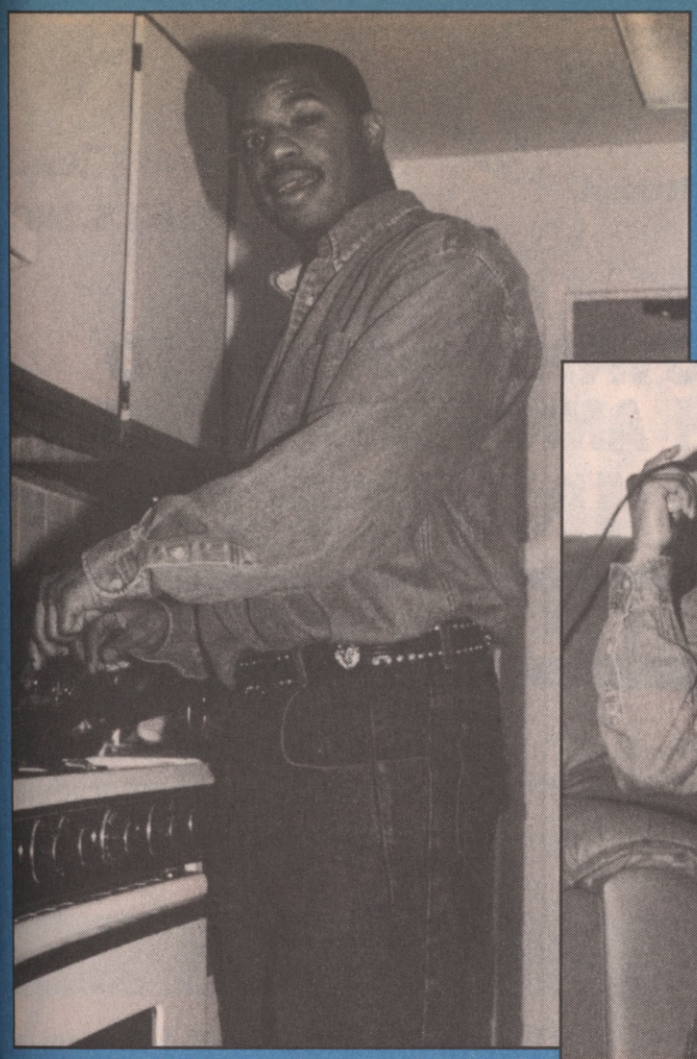
The Golden Road To Stardom

DAVID REID UPDATE

WAITING IS THE HARDEST PART

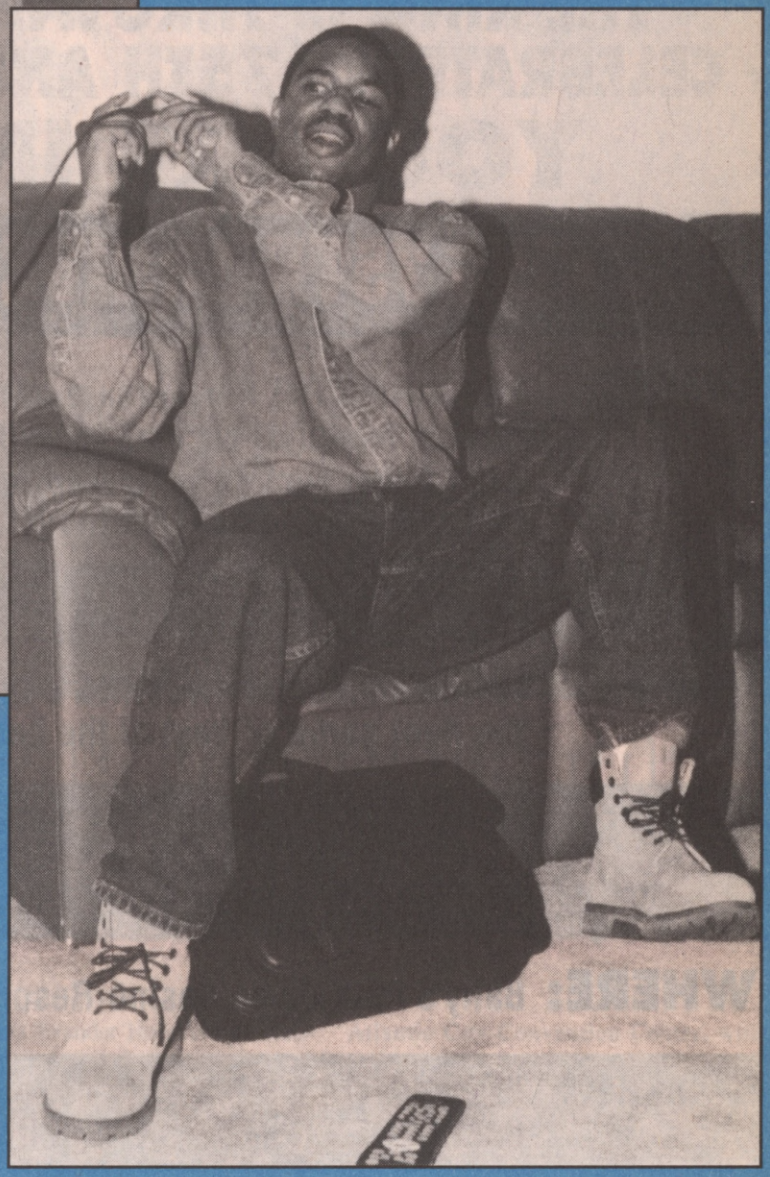


Photos by Jason Ross Lavin



Reid's been killing time by cooking in his new apartment. It's a frustrating time for him; his Olympic teammates are boxing regularly, and he hasn't yet turned pro.

Instead of mastering boxing video games, Reid wants to prove his skills in the real thing. As we went to press, it looked like his pro debut would come in March or April.



Second in a series

By Nigel Collins

It's only about a 10-minute drive from David Reid's old North Philadelphia neighborhood to his new high-rise apartment on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. But in terms of lifestyle and property values, it's an entirely different world. Now, when Reid looks out his window, instead of row homes, graffiti, and wind-blown trash, he sees the Philadelphia Art Museum (yes, that's where *Rocky* ran up the steps), William Penn's statue atop City Hall, and the ornate fountains at Logan Circle.

Even though he has yet to throw a punch as a professional, the only member of the 1996 U.S. Olympic boxing team to win a gold medal in Atlanta is definitely movin' on up. The money to finance Reid's upward mobility has come from the reported $1.4-million signing bonus the fighter received upon joining America Presents, the Denver-based promotional outfit that won a bidding war for his services. But due to an eye injury incurred during the 1995 Pan-Am Games, Reid's pro debut has been delayed, probably until late-March or early-April.

To make matters worse, the injury proved slightly more complicated than originally thought. Muscle damage caused his left eyelid to droop, but before it could be surgically corrected, the left eyeball dropped down to compensate, making it necessary to realign Reid's eyes before repairing the muscle.

(Continued on page 61)

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WHY: To commemorate THE RING's Diamond Anniversary and recognize the fight game's "best of the best" over the past 75 years

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Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

IS IT TIME FOR BOWE TO GO?

"He Talked Like A Guy Who Had Been Through 100 Fights"

By John Scheinman

Riddick Bowe somehow not only made it to the postfight press conference after his second fight with Andrew Golota, he arrived in a jovial mood. Maybe because he had rediscovered his incredible courage, standing up to the beating of his life at the fists of Golota. Or maybe because he thought his macabre victory over Golota, who, having once again been disqualified for flagrant low blows, is fast becoming a psychopathologist's dream patient, was the reward for such bravery.

Bowe had emerged from his three-fight crucible with Evander Holyfield an indisputable warrior, and in the public's eyes, had thrown that reputation out the window last July in his first meeting with Golota. Behind, desperate, and on the verge of a knockout loss, Bowe appeared to greatly exaggerate the effect of Golota's low blows. He went down, he writhed, he winced, and he won by disqualification. It didn't do him any good, either, when several of his credentialed supporters burst into the Madison Square Garden ring and assaulted Golota, triggering one of the ugliest riots in American sports history.

But in the December 14 rematch at the Atlantic City Convention Center, with "Big Daddy" in what all members of his camp universally agreed was the best condition of his life, Bowe, 40-1 (32), wound up taking an even greater pummeling. Only this time—low blows and headbutts be damned—he fought his heart out till the end. And up on the dais afterward, with Golota, 28-2 (25), en route to a nearby hospital to have a gash over his left eye sewn and his jaw examined for a fracture, Bowe sounded full of pride. He also slurred his words in a manner that chilled the assembled media. Normally members of a pitiless mob, in this instance no writers had

For the second consecutive fight, Bowe absorbed a frightening amount of punishment (above). Had Golota punched only to the head (right), he would surely have emerged victorious.

the guts to bring it up.

No one can definitively say Bowe has suffered permanent injury, cumulative or recent, without proof. According to manager Rock Newman, Bowe underwent an extensive medical examination two days after the fight, including a brain scan and MRI, and came away A-okay. Bowe retreated to share the holidays with family at home in Fort Washington, Maryland, and Newman said they soon would huddle to decide on the next move.

It's a decision he vowed would be made very carefully.

***

It was the kind of fight that leaves you speechless, yet unable to stop talking about; violence loosed from a Pandora's box from hell. The usually misleading CompuBox punchstat numbers for once illuminated a graphic story: Over the course of nine rounds, Golota threw 638 punches, Bowe 476; Golota landed 276 powerpunches, Bowe 134. Incessant, controlled mayhem of the highest order.

The first round of Bowe-Golota II had a false face; it suggested a tactical battle as both looked to establish jabs. Golota tripled his punches, while Bowe lunged to make contact. Big Daddy finally landed his first good jab with 15 seconds remaining in the round, and then reached Golota with a right. Bowe, at 235 pounds, did not look like Bowe. From the shoulders up, he appeared gaunt, as if we were looking at a half-shrunken head. The body, in some intangible way, appeared artificially sculpted. Bowe has always suffered criticism for his weight, particularly the doughboyish 252 he scaled for his first meeting with Golota.

New to Bowe's training camp (and coinciding with the departure of trainer Eddie Futch) was fitness guru Mackie Shilstone, best-known in boxing for having grown a cruiserweight Holyfield into a heavyweight. Also aboard was a less-well-known vitamin and diet guide named Kibwe Bey. Both these men had the approval of Newman and new head trainer Thell Torrence, a longtime Futch assistant who took over responsibilities when the old master, at 84 and on the outs with Newman, decided he'd had enough.

At the start of the second round, Golota dropped Bowe like a sack with a bomb of a right hand that landed on the temple. Bowe pulled himself off the canvas and retreated to the ropes, where the Polish fighter couldn't let go his fists fast enough. Golota sensed an early kill and went for it. But with Bowe reeling and crumbling, Golota previewed things to come: A blatant headbutt not only brought a swift point deduction from referee Eddie Cotton, but bought Bowe valuable time to catch his breath and recompose.

But Bowe never fully recovered. For the remainder of the fight, he stumbled around as if he'd just returned from a week at sea. Whether Golota's big right hand had disturbed Bowe's motor coordination, or he had entered the fight in an already-weakened condition from the weight loss, is open to speculation.

Camp sparring partner Corey "T-Rex" Sanders said before the fight that Bowe had been extremely strong in the gym. Still, Sanders had also dropped Bowe with a counter right 10 days before the fight.

Newman and Torrence both stood by Bowe's conditioning program after the bout.

"Riddick started work a couple days after Labor Day. He never did one thing drastic," Newman said. "He went about his business; he worked hard. We figured

Riddick would be good and fast in the 240s. He worked hard, ate the right foods, and disciplined himself. He cruised into that weight. As a matter of fact, he ate lunch on the day of the weigh-in."

Newman said Bey's role was to keep Bowe away from fried foods and sweets, get him on a proper vitamin regimen, prepare him fish, turkey, and juices. He also said Bey had given Bowe things "to cleanse his system."

"His room looked like a pharmacy," Torrence said of Bey, while firmly supporting the work he did in camp.

Futch, who watched the fight at his home in Las Vegas, remembered several clashes with Newman over having "vitamin people" like Bey around.

"He would bring in people who were supposed to add to the training program. I would watch them for a few days, and if I didn't like what he brought in, I would chase them away," Futch said. "I had vitamin people in before and I got rid of them. They don't know that training a fighter is different from training any other athlete.

"When I first learned about the guru [Bey] in this camp, I knew there was nothing Thell was going to be able to do."

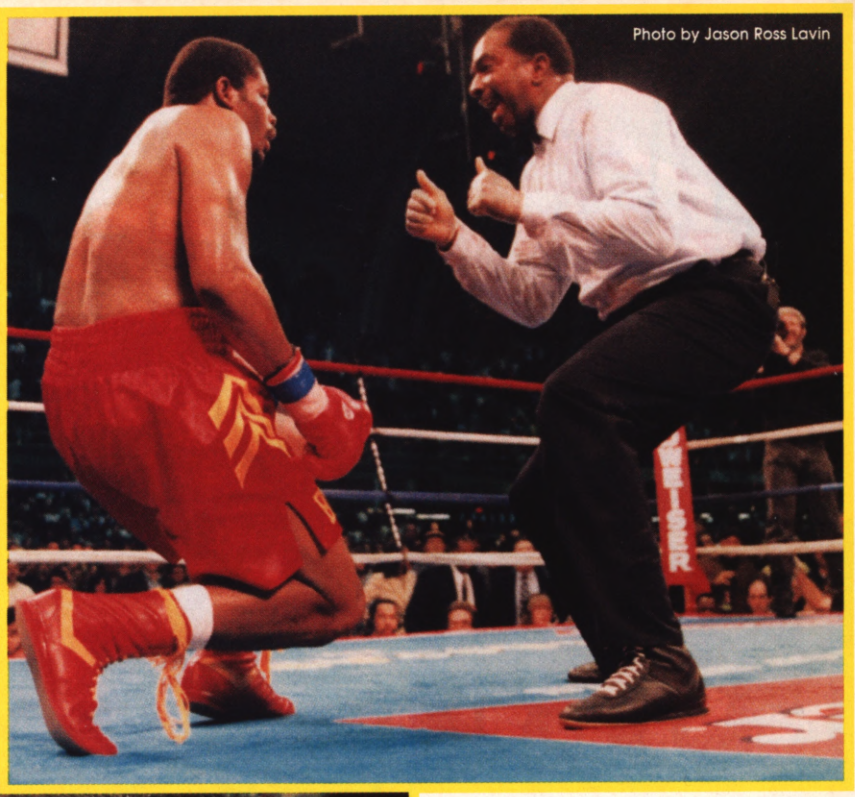
Newman speculated that Bowe may finally have fallen victim to the massive weight fluctuations that have plagued him through the years. Balloon up and trim down—that was always the Bowe way.

For this fight, he'd unbuckled 45 pounds.

"I think that has taken a toll on his strength and overall stamina," Newman said.

***

Bowe landed a right to open the third round, but moments later staggered forward after missing with another punch. He connected with a right uppercut, and Golota's left eye, cut in the second round during or just before the headbutt, bled freely. Both men set to slugging inside and



Bowe-Golota II unfolded as if choreographed by Sylvester Stallone. Bowe never fully recovered after crashing in the second (above). Despite leading on the cards, Golota showed the face of a loser (left).

Golota began his adventures low. Clearly determined to go to war, Bowe had chucked any idea of following a game plan. The free-swinging finish to close the third had the crowd of 12,013 rocking. Bowe took the round on all three cards and then went for paydirt in the fourth.

Early pretensions of jabbing literally went south of the border. Golota landed a low right and followed with a clean punch. Bowe answered low and then poleaxed Golota with a huge, looping right. Sensing his moment, Bowe threw everything he had at his 6'4", 239-pound opponent. Punch after punch smashed home until Bowe finally drove Golota down. He was up at the count of five, and Bowe moved in once more.

Golota then did what Golota does: He hit below the belt. Then he did it again and apologized after Cotton warned him to keep his punches up. Bowe retaliated with his own groin blast, and Golota, of course, answered back. Only this time Bowe slid down in pain along the ropes near Golota's corner.

(Continued on page 54)

FIGHTER OF THE YEAR

EVANDER HOLYFIELD

To The Spoiler Go The Spoils

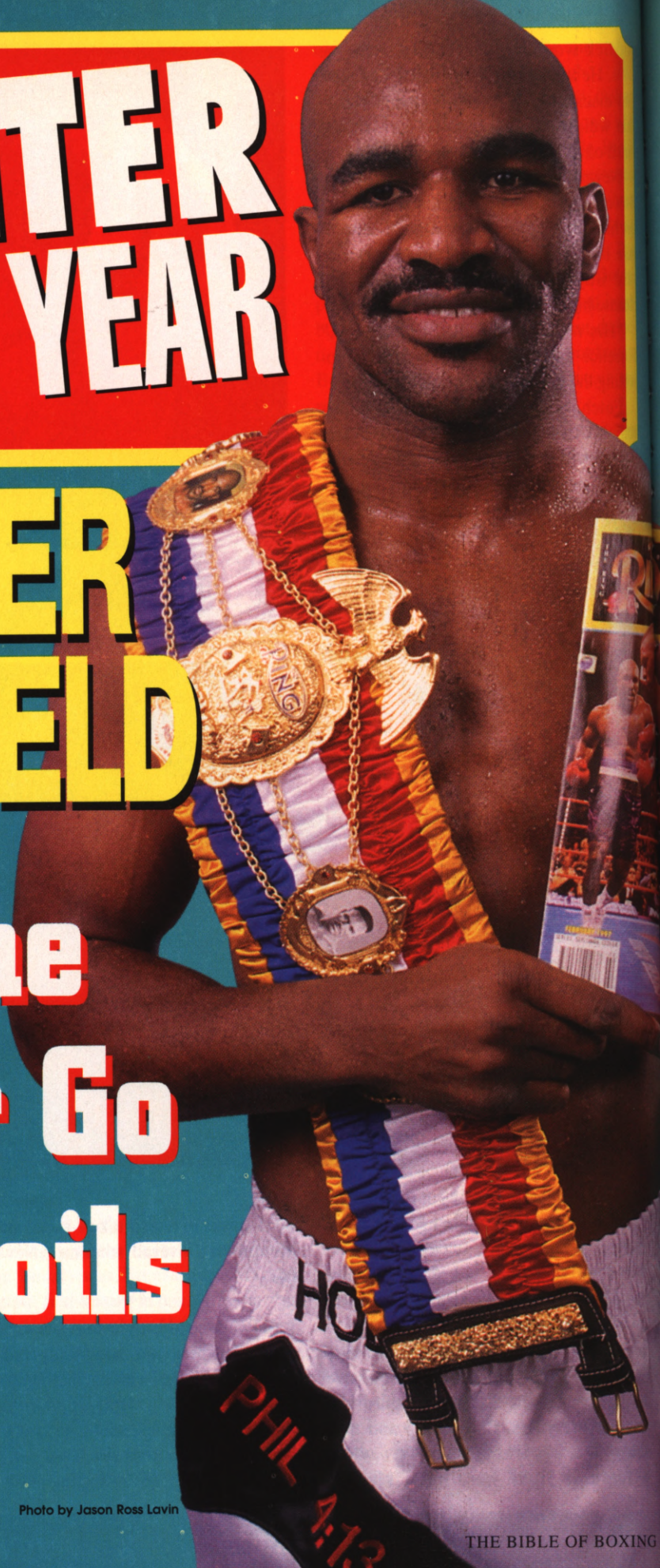


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

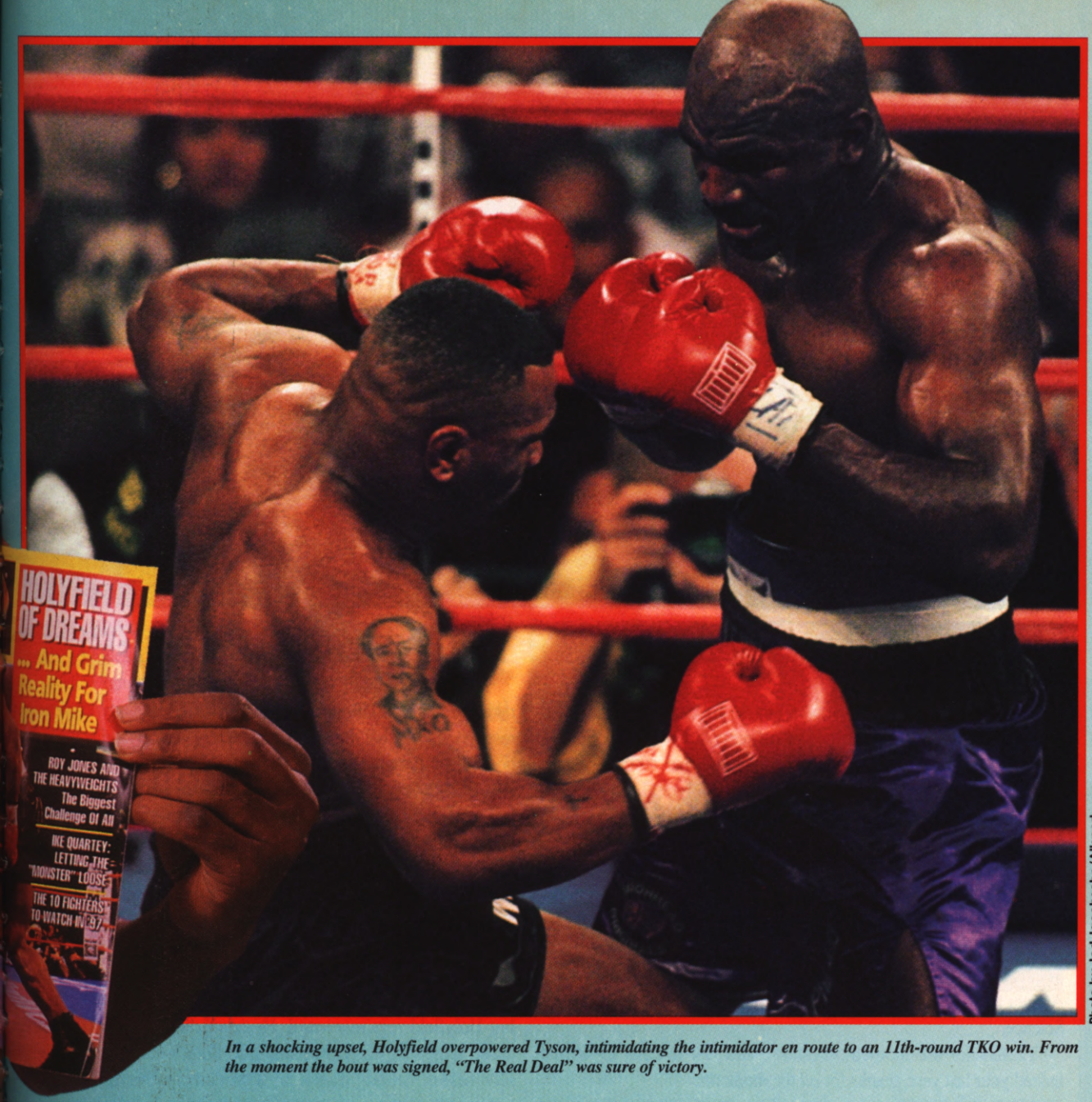


Photo by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport

In a shocking upset, Holyfield overpowered Tyson, intimidating the intimidator en route to an 11th-round TKO win. From the moment the bout was signed, "The Real Deal" was sure of victory.

By Jeff Schultz

Is he bigger now? He looks bigger. Sitting next to Jay Leno two nights after the miracle, mixing with celebrities at a function in Chicago, positioned next to Donald Trump ringside for a card in Atlantic City, somehow Evander Holyfield looks ... bigger.

What did the children always say when Holyfield would speak to a grade school class? "Yeah, you're the champ. But you can't beat Tyson."

Holyfield would smile. But it stung. He had won the heavyweight championship twice. *Twice*. He had beaten Riddick Bowe, back when that was a considerable accomplishment. He had made more money than any other boxer in history, was as respected as any professional athlete. Yet he still carried himself in public more like the boy who had pumped fuel at DeKalb-Peachtree Airport than the man who had earned more than $100-million in the ring and was building a 56,000 square-foot mansion. Why, Holyfield wondered, did he go into fights with the thought, *For some reason, everybody thinks they can beat me*?

Do they think that with Tyson? Did they think it with Ali? With Louis? With Frazier, Foreman, Jeffries, Dempsey, Marciano?

"No matter what I did before, you had people saying, 'You can't beat Mike Tyson,'" Holyfield says, a smile coming to his face. "But they can't say that now. They can't say that Mike didn't fight hard or he wasn't in shape. And it's not like I beat him with a lucky punch. People saw what happened. They saw domination."

He is in a limo now. He is wearing a suit with REAL DEAL stitched vertically to form pinstripes. (The suit is not off the rack.) The limo is traveling the 10 miles

from Atlanta's Hartsfield Airport to the 103-acre estate in Fairburn, Georgia, where Holyfield will stop to pick up his children, spend a few minutes watching selected moments of the night, *his* night, on videotape, then make his way downtown for a parade in his honor.

As he sits in his limo, he looks bigger. As he waves from a convertible riding down Peachtree Street, he looks bigger. As he stands on a stage accepting words of praise from the mayor, from a corporate executive, from Magic Johnson, he looks bigger.

Is he? Not really. The scale might have read a few pounds heavier for Holyfield's long-anticipated fight with Tyson. His chest and shoulders and biceps might have been pumped a little more from a weightlifting program more extensive than he had experienced in prior camps. But in reality, he's the same man he was before that November evening in Las Vegas. If he looks bigger, it's because he is perceived as bigger. He knows this. He has no problem with it. In fact, he embraces it.

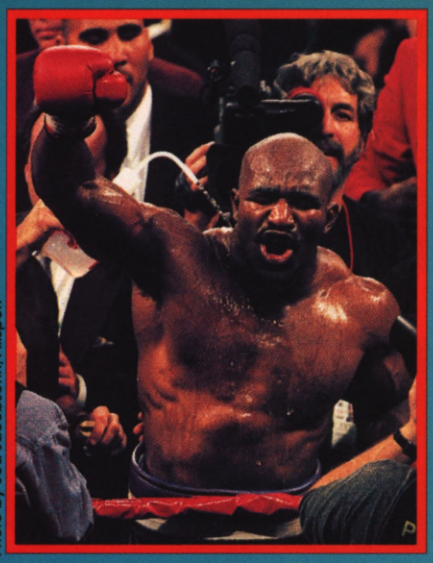


Photo by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport

Holyfield acknowledges the fans after halting Tyson. In the sixth round, the MGM Grand Garden shook with a chant of "Holy-field! Holy-field!" It was among the most memorable moments of the year.

After all, that *was* Holyfield who took Tyson's best right hand flush on the cheek four seconds into the fight and didn't wobble. That *was* Holyfield who opened a cut over Tyson's left eye in the sixth. That *was* Holyfield who fired a blur of left hooks to Tyson's body and a short uppercut to knock down Tyson. *Mike Tyson!* And that was *Tyson* who didn't know a casino from the Catskills when the 10th round ended, and when his night ended 37 seconds into the 11th.

On November 9, 1996, Evander Holyfield grew 10 feet. He was bigger.

"Everyone in the world, in one sense or another, feels that I beat the heavyweight

EVANDER HOLYFIELD: THE YEAR THAT WAS

Nineteen-ninety-six was supposed to be the last year of Evander Holyfield's career, a time when he'd finally acknowledge boxing burnout. If "The Real Deal's" frustrating November 1995 kayo loss to Riddick Bowe proved anything, it was that Holyfield had engaged in one tough fight too many. All those days of high-tech training, all those passionate wars, all that money in the bank … how long could a 34-year-old former champion be expected to perform at the highest level?

The answer came on November 9. Fittingly, Holyfield's unexpected kayo of Mike Tyson came three weeks before Thanksgiving. So inspirational was his victory that afterward, fight fans from Atlanta to Ankara thanked him for restoring their faith in the Sweet Science.

Thanks for the moment, Evander, and just in case 1996 was indeed your last year, thanks for *all* the moments.

KO 6 Bobby Czyz, New York City, May 10, 1996: Fighting for the first time since his rubber match loss to Riddick Bowe in November '95, Holyfield tries for his first knockout in almost five years. His opponent is former light heavyweight and cruiser champion Czyz. At 34, the one-time golden boy is a bit too old and, at 210 pounds, a bit too heavy. Moreover, he's spotting The Real Deal nine inches in reach.

"It's the first time I'm fighting someone my size or a little smaller," says Holyfield. "It kind of puts me in my cruiserweight days."

Czyz enters the Madison Square Garden ring wearing alligator boxing boots and a towel across his chest that reads MENSA. Indeed, it's going to take a lot of smarts to beat a bigger, better man. His plan: Work under the assumption that Holyfield is shot. Ride out the early rounds and rally late, setting a pace his opponent can't hope to match.

Holyfield, 211, quickly establishes his advantage in hand speed, raking Czyz with combinations to the head and body. Czyz tries to respond in kind, but the round's last flurry is Holyfield's: hook, right, hook, right, left uppercut, right, hook, right.

Czyz retreats in the second. He launches several right hands, but is consistently short. Holyfield opens the third with a pair of lead hooks, and the heavyweights trade toe-to-toe. Holyfield's punches are jarring, and less than a minute into the round referee Ron Lipton issues Czyz a standing eight-count. The underdog finishes the round against the ropes and returns to his corner complaining of burning in his eyes.

Czyz fights off the ropes in the fourth and gains a slight edge; it's his best round. The crowd begins a chant of "Bob-bee!" in the fifth, but Holyfield regains control. He connects with most of his power shots, staggering Czyz, but failing to floor him. At the round's end, Holyfield is bleeding from a cut at the corner of his right eye.

Just when it seems Czyz' plan is working, he retires in his corner

Holyfield proves too big and strong for the gutty Czyz

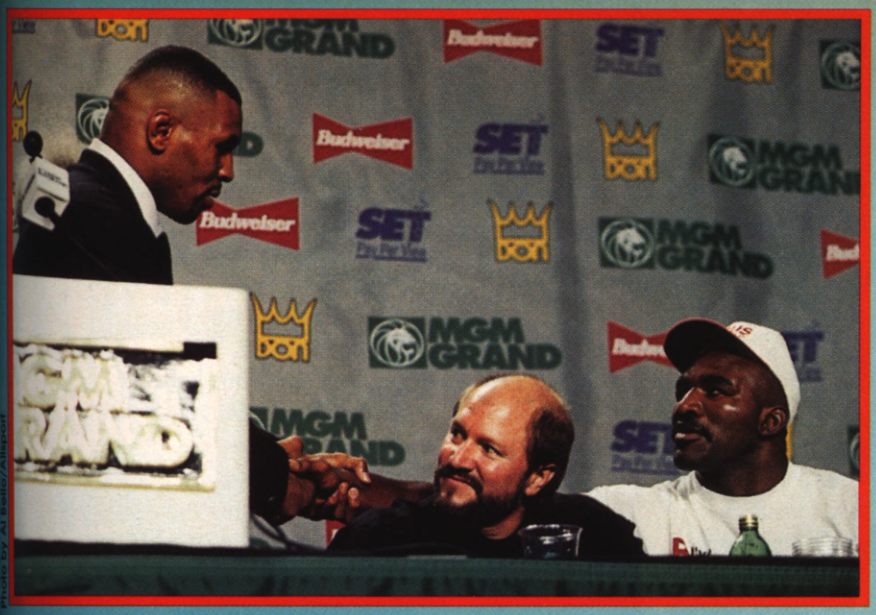


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

"I just want to shake your hand," Tyson said to his conqueror at the postfight press conference. "It's been so long. I just want to touch you. Thank you very much. I have the greatest respect for you." Seated between the fighters is Jim Thomas, Holyfield's attorney.

champion of the world," Holyfield says. "The thing is, Mike didn't complain about the fight. He didn't take away from it by saying, 'Well, I wasn't prepared,' or 'He did this illegal.' He just came out and said, 'This man was the better man tonight.' It's good that now everyone agrees that, you know, I'm the man."

He is the man in demand. Because of the perception—indeed, the proof—that he is now the best heavyweight of the '90s, he has become a walking dollar sign. Consider the scene in Holyfield's dressing room at the MGM Grand Garden after the Tyson fight. Among those present was Shelly Finkel, Holyfield's former longtime manager. The week of the fight, Finkel openly predicted Tyson would win easily. That wasn't nearly as surprising as Finkel's declaration that Tyson would also have beaten Holyfield had they met five

because of blurred vision. He later claims "there was an ointment" on Holyfield's gloves. The gloves are impounded by the New York State Athletic Commission, but nothing comes of the controversy.

After five rounds, Holyfield leads by scores of 50-44, 49-46, and 49-45.

"I was getting too excited," Holyfield said of his performance. "I wasn't breathing; it was hard to get into a rhythm. I just went out there swinging like a madman."

KO 11 Mike Tyson, Las Vegas, November 9, 1996: Sometimes the odds don't convey the magnitude of an upset.

When it is announced that Holyfield will face WBA heavyweight champion Tyson at the MGM Grand Garden, the champion opens as a 25-1 favorite. (He closes at a more reasonable 6-1.) The concern, however, is not whether Holyfield will get kayoed, but whether he'll get hurt. *Badly* hurt.

Asked why he had stepped away from managing The Real Deal in 1994, Shelly Finkel said, "When he lost the fight to [Michael] Moorer, it made three or four times I'd been with him in the hospital." And remember, those hospital visits came *before* Holyfield's kayo loss to Riddick Bowe. Would the Tyson fight necessitate yet another medical emergency?

Whether it be styles making fights, Tyson having been overrated, or divine intervention, Holyfield summons the performance of his career. Tyson, 222, shakes Holyfield, 215, with his first punch, a booming right, but the challenger quickly establishes that unlike Frank Bruno and Bruce Seldon, he has every intention of fighting back. Countering sharply and always in combination, he takes the first three rounds.

Tyson rallies in the fourth, and in the fifth lands his most devastating combination, a right to the body and a right uppercut to the chin. No problem. Boxing in a zone, Holyfield doesn't as much as acknowledge the assault. He cuts the champion at the corner of his left eye in the sixth, then downs him with a counter left. Tyson picks

Tyson becomes well-acquainted with "The Real Deal's" right hand

himself up and initiates a furious exchange just before the bell, but never seriously threatens again.

After the heavyweights clash heads in the seventh, Tyson seems disoriented. Holyfield captures the eighth and ninth, then, with 20 seconds remaining in the 10th, stuns Tyson with a counter right. The followup blitz is overwhelming, and a groggy Tyson is saved by the bell.

Early in the 11th, the saving is done by referee Mitch Halpern, who drapes his arms around Tyson when Holyfield attacks once more.

"I saw a hurt fighter," says the third man. "Any more punishment would have been unjust."

"I really wasn't aware of what happened," says Tyson, who claims he fought on instinct from the third round on.

The final word goes to Holyfield, who says, "I was led by the Spirit."

We know what you mean, champ, because after watching you for 11 rounds, we felt it, too.

THE RING's FIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Evander Holyfield is the 71st recipient of THE RING's Fighter of the Year award. A complete listing:

1928: Gene Tunney
1929: Tommy Loughran
1930: Max Schmeling
1931: Tommy Loughran
1932: Jack Sharkey
1933: No Award
1934: Tony Canzoneri/Barney Ross
1935: Barney Ross
1936: Joe Louis
1937: Henry Armstrong
1938: Joe Louis
1939: Joe Louis
1940: Billy Conn
1941: Joe Louis
1942: Ray Robinson
1943: Fred Apostoli
1944: Beau Jack
1945: Willie Pep
1946: Tony Zale
1947: Gus Lesnevich
1948: Ike Williams
1949: Ezzard Charles
1950: Ezzard Charles
1951: Ray Robinson
1952: Rocky Marciano
1953: Bobo Olson
1954: Rocky Marciano
1955: Rocky Marciano
1956: Floyd Patterson
1957: Carmen Basilio
1958: Ingemar Johansson
1959: Ingemar Johansson
1960: Floyd Patterson
1961: Joe Brown
1962: Dick Tiger
1963: Cassius Clay
1964: Emile Griffith
1965: Dick Tiger
1966: No Award
1967: Joe Frazier
1968: Nino Benvenuti
1969: Jose Napoles
1970: Joe Frazier
1971: Joe Frazier
1972: Muhammad Ali/Carlos Monzon
1973: George Foreman
1974: Muhammad Ali
1975: Muhammad Ali
1976: George Foreman
1977: Carlos Zarate
1978: Muhammad Ali
1979: Ray Leonard
1980: Thomas Hearns
1981: Ray Leonard/Salvador Sanchez
1982: Larry Holmes
1983: Marvin Hagler
1984: Thomas Hearns
1985: Marvin Hagler/Donald Curry
1986: Mike Tyson
1987: Evander Holyfield
1988: Mike Tyson
1989: Pernell Whitaker
1990: Julio Cesar Chavez
1991: James Toney
1992: Riddick Bowe
1993: Michael Carbajal
1994: Roy Jones
1995: Oscar De La Hoya
1996: Evander Holyfield

years earlier—when Finkel was still working for Holyfield. But after Holyfield's win, there was Finkel, offering any business advice if the heavyweight champion desired it.

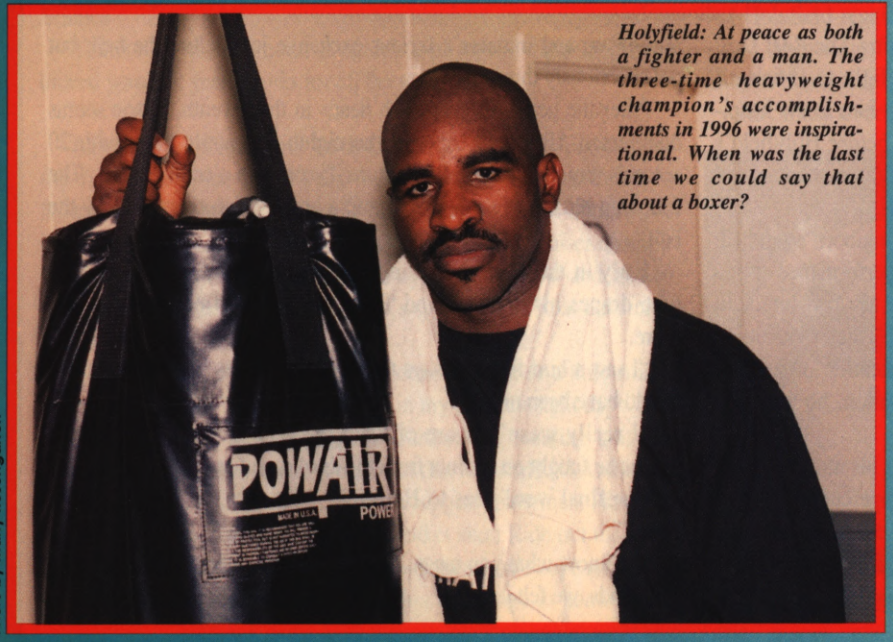
Finkel denies he was trying to lure Holyfield back as a client. Those in Holyfield's camp thought otherwise. Holyfield smiles when asked about the exchange, but says only, "I'm not looking to add anybody right now."

There were other indications the legend had grown. HBO, which didn't have rights to the fight, and doesn't have rights to the anticipated rematch, nonetheless took out a full-page ad in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* to congratulate Holyfield. Ulterior motives? You decide. But Holyfield's attorney, Jim Thomas, can vouch for the messages on his desk from HBO Sports boss Seth Abraham.

The request for appearances ... the endorsement opportunities ... the demand after the Tyson fight—it all dwarfed the attention Holyfield received during any previous chapter in his career. But hadn't he dropped Buster Douglas, the first man to beat Tyson? Hadn't he beaten Bowe when so many considered Holyfield a shot former champion?

"This is much, much bigger," says Mike Boorman, a publicist for Main Events, Holyfield's longtime promoter. "The first time he won the title, he beat Douglas, a guy everybody thought had been lucky in Tokyo. The second time there was excitement, but everyone thought Bowe was out of shape. This time he beat the guy who many people thought he couldn't beat with a gun. Not only did he beat a guy who some thought to be invincible, but he beat someone who some thought was the most evil man on the planet."

(Continued on page 55)



Holyfield: At peace as both a fighter and a man. The three-time heavyweight champion's accomplishments in 1996 were inspirational. When was the last time we could say that about a boxer?

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

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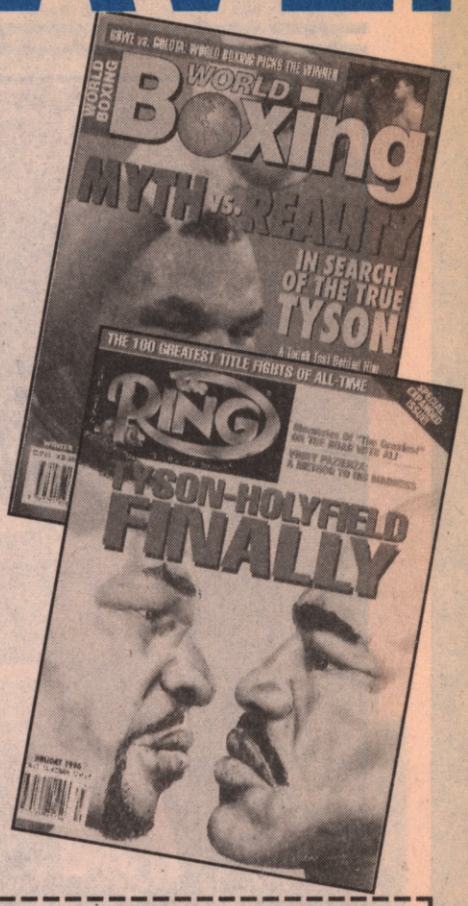

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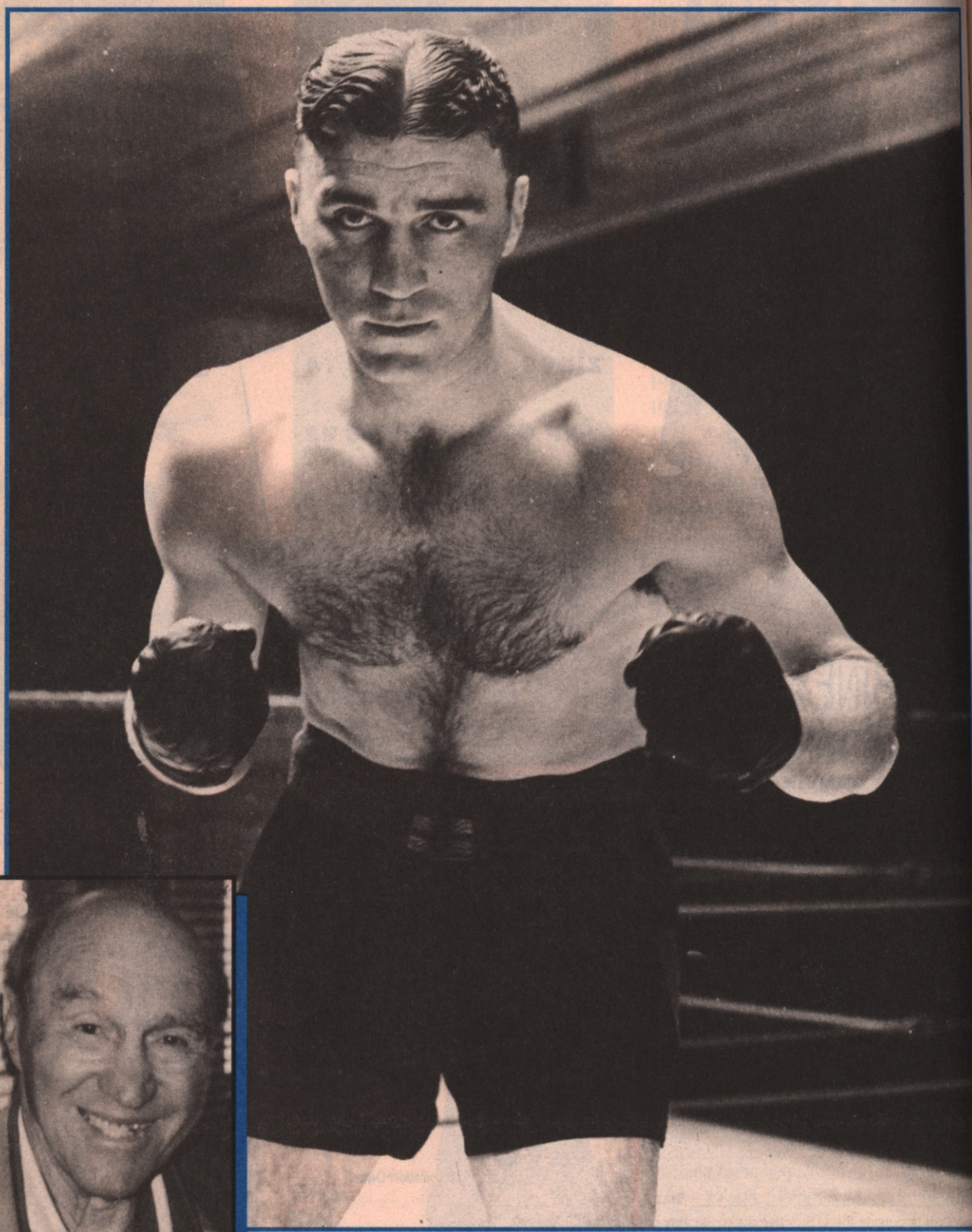
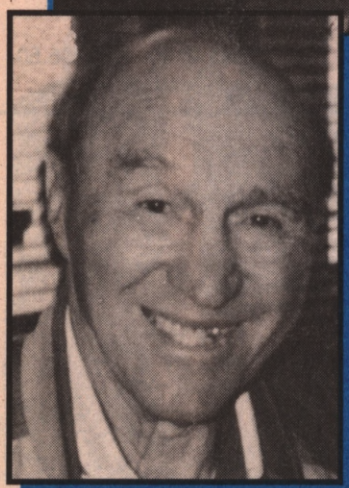
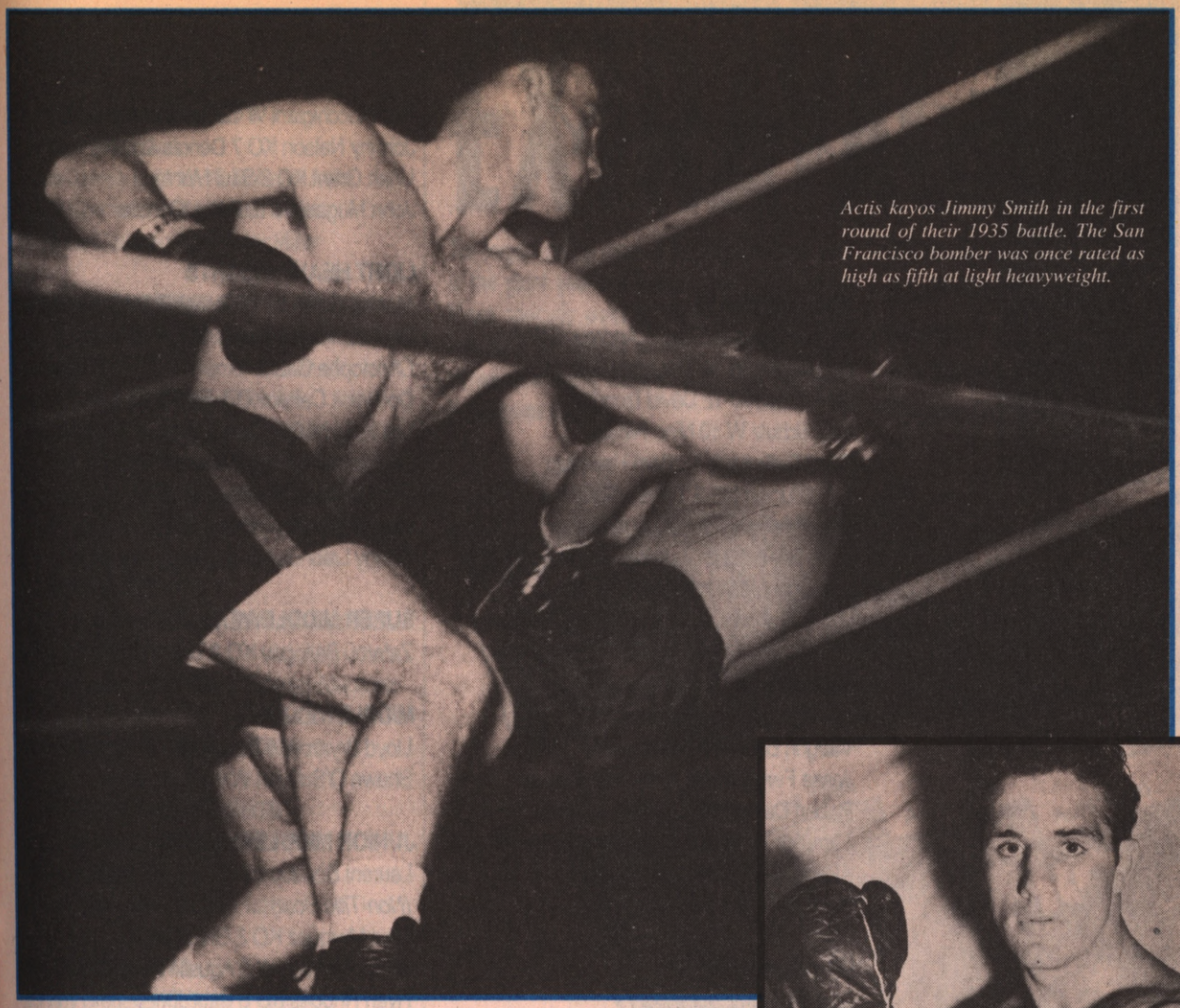
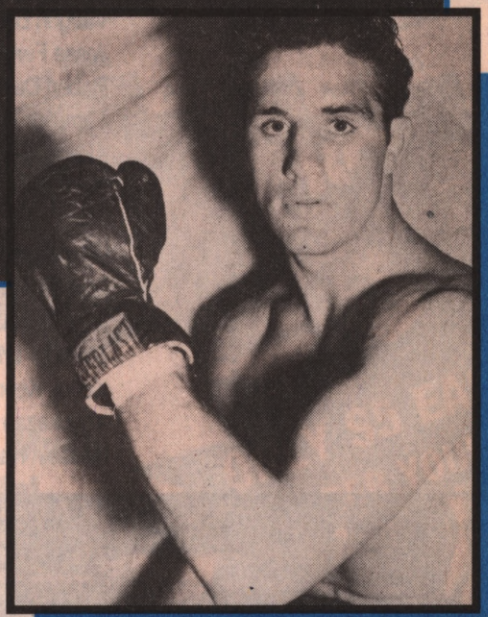






Actis kayos Jimmy Smith in the first round of their 1935 battle. The San Francisco bomber was once rated as high as fifth at light heavyweight.

The Light Heavy Who Hit Harder Than Joe Louis



Billy Conn, who halted Actis in 1938, said the light heavyweight hit even harder than Joe Louis. Actis almost kayoed Conn in round three.

By Pete Ehrmann

Since he was twice whacked into unconsciousness by Joe Louis, the first time in one of the most famous fights in heavyweight title history, it was natural for most people to assume that famous light heavyweight champion Billy Conn never got hit harder by anybody in his career. But every time the matter was brought up, "The Pittsburgh Kid" would unhesitatingly set the record straight by mentioning what Ray Actis did to him three years before "The Brown Bomber" even laid a glove on him.

"That Actis hit me harder that night out in San Francisco than Louis did when I fought him for the championship," Conn said many times.

Just how hard could San Francisco native Actis hit? Fifteen years ago, legendary local boxing writer Eddie Muller reported a discussion with Joe Herman,

(Continued on page 61)

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Riddick Bowe W Disq. 9 Andrew Golota
Ray Mercer W 10 Tim Witherspoon
David Tua KO 12 David Izonritei
Axel Schulz W 10 Nino Ribalta
Obed Sullivan W 12 Sam Hampton
Tony Tucker KO 3 Tyrone Campbell
Brian Nielsen KO 2 Marcus Rhode
Brian Scott KO 2 Courage Tshabalala
Larry Donald W 10 James Gaines
Hasim Rahman KO 2 Herman Delgado
Ross Puritty KO 7 Jorge Luis Gonzalez
Michael Grant W 10 Ray Anis
Joe Hipp KO 1 Will Hinton
Vaughn Bean KO 1 Earl Talley
Jesse Ferguson W 10 Everton Davis
Robert Daniels KO 2 Dwayne Smith
Terrence Lewis KO 4 Nathaniel Fitch
Alonzo Highsmith KO 1 Tim Ray
Butterbean KO 1 Sean Jegen

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Marcelo Dominguez KO 7
Jose Arimateia Da Silva
(Retains WBC Title)
Kenny Keene KO 3 Jay Snyder
Yosukezan Nishijima KO 9
Hussein Kadoebi Shah

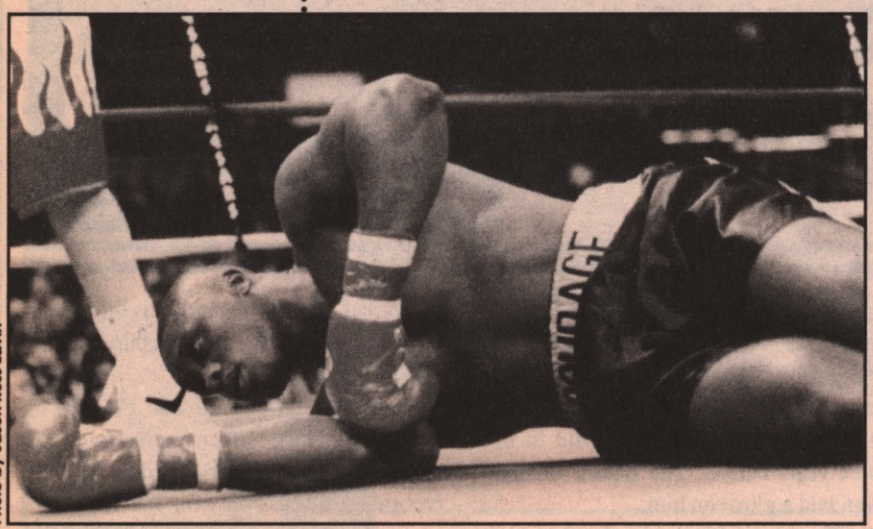


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Courage Tshabalala saw his unbeaten mark end against Brian Scott

Ralf Rocchigiani W 12 Stefan Angerhn
Johnny Nelson KO 7 Dennis Andries
Uriah Grant KO 3 Saul Montana
John Mugabi W 10 Peter Kinsella

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Montell Griffin W 12 James Toney
Dariusz Michalczewski KO 8
Christophe Girard
Dominick Carter KO 1 Rocky Gannon
Leif Keiski KO 5 Patrick Swann
Ole Klemetsen W 8 Vinson Durham
Eric Lucas W 10 Antwun Echols
Nicky Piper KO 7 Bruce Scott
Donny Lalonde KO 3 George Sponagle

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Zafarou Ballogou KO 2 Bruno Godoy

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Lloyd Bryan W 8 Earl Allen
Shawn O'Sullivan W 6 Raul Torres

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Laurent Boudouani KO 4 Benji Singleton
(Non-Title Bout)
Raul Marquez KO 2 Greg Smith
Julian Jackson W 8 Agustin Renteria
Ryan Rhodes KO 8 Paul Jones
Troy Waters KO 6 Luis Vasquez
Adrian Dodson KO 1 Anthony Joseph
David Ciarlante W 12 Faouzi Hattab
Jose Garcia KO 10 Jorge Vaca

WELTERWEIGHTS
Yori Boy Campas KO 2 Fidel Avendano
Antonio Margarito W 10 Juan Rivera
Ken Sigurani W 12 Robert Frazier

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Juan Coggi KO 2 Alberto Zuloaga
Mickey Ward W 10 Manny Castillo
Hector Quiroz KO 4 John West
Russell Mosley D 10 Jaime Ocegueda
Ray Oliveira KO 3 Edwin Ruiz
Jermal Corbin KO 4 Alberto Diaz

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Phillip Holiday W 12 Ivan Robinson
(Retains IBF Title)
Shane Mosley KO 3 Joseph Murray

Juan Manuel Marquez KO 8
Rodrigo Valenzuela
Jesse James Leija W 10 Roberto Avila
Javier Carmona KO 4 Mauro Lucero
Terrance Cauthen W 4 Victor Miller

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Tracy Patterson KO 10 Jose Aponte
Robert Garcia KO 2 Ramon Sanchez
Justin Juuko KO 8 Gary Thornhill
Angel Manfredy KO 5 Wilfredo Ruiz
Cesar Soto W 10 Aaron Zarate
Julio Alvarez W 12 Jesus Rodriguez
Zahir Raheem W 4 Jesus Aragon-Gamez

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Wilfredo Vazquez KO 5 Bernardo Mendoza
(Retains WBA Title)
Tom Johnson Tech. Draw 3 Javier Marquez
(Non-Title Bout)
Jose Badillo KO 5 Olegario DeLeon

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Antonio Cermeno W 12 Yuichi Kasai
(Retains WBA Title)
Erik Morales W 10 Robbie Lovato

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Johnny Bredahl KO 5 Harry Geier
Adan Vargas W 12 Jose Sarabia

FLYWEIGHTS
Carlos Salazar KO 10 Alberto Jimenez
Arthur Johnson W 12
Miguel Angel Granados
Isaias Zamudio W 10 Sergio Perez
Miguel Martinez KO 1 Edgar Decena
Javier Varguez KO 4 Dionisio May

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Saman Sorjaturong W 12
Manuel Jesus Herrera
(Retains WBC Title)
Michael Carbajal KO 3 Tomas Cordoba
(Non-Title Bout)
Melchor Cob Castro W 10 Juan Bautista

STRAWWEIGHTS
Ricardo Lopez KO 1 Myung Sup Park
(Retains WBC Title)

COLLECTOR'S

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER of the MONTH

If the year gone by taught us one thing, it's that we shouldn't be so quick to judge veteran fighters as shot. Evander Holyfield, of course, is the prime example. But no less telling is the case of junior featherweight Jones.

In 1994, the New Yorker was ranked among the best young champions in the game, a 23-year-old superstar-to-be who was likely to win titles in two or three divisions. Then he lost the WBA bantamweight crown by knockout to John Michael Johnson, and two fights later was stopped by the unrated Darryl Pinckney. What followed, a slew of wins against mediocre opposition, did nothing to alter the belief that Jones lacked a big-league chin.

Then came 1996, a year that saw Jones smartly outpoint Orlando Canizales and, in November, upset Mexican superstar Marco Antonio Barrera. A shot fighter? Jones is now a pound-for-pound entrant. And if he can humble Barrera, who is he supposed to fear?

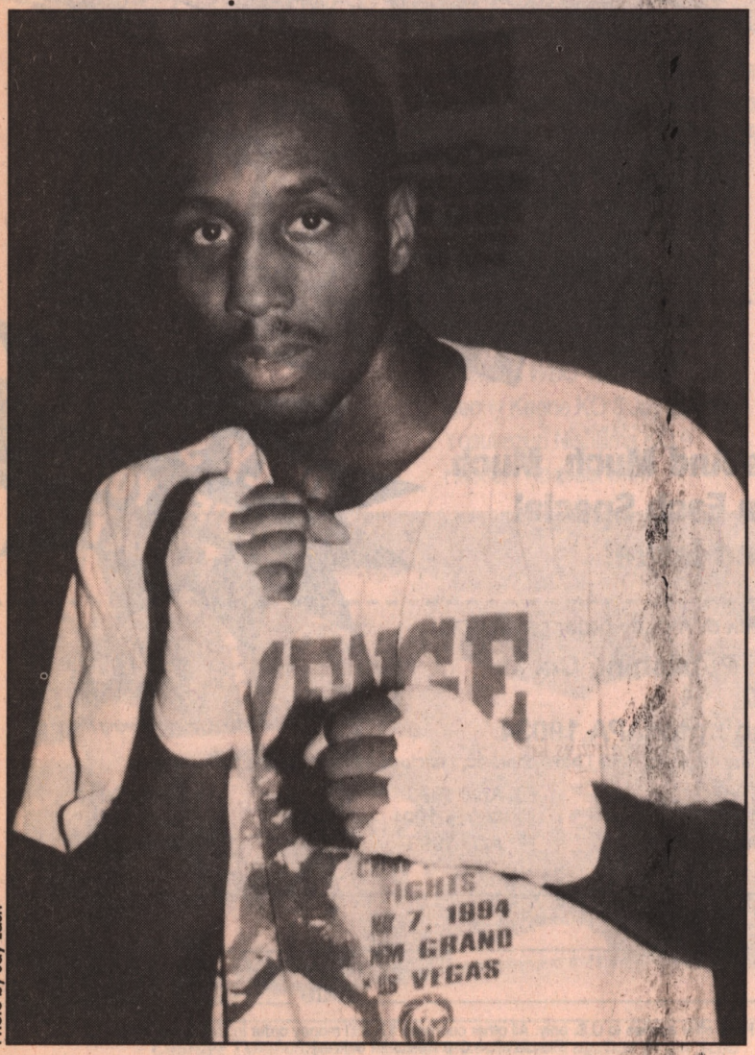


Photo by Joy Lash

• • • •

Junior Jones

Virgil Hill W 12 Henry Maske

Munich, Germany: In a rare unification bout that developed into a predictably lackluster affair, Hill joined Terry Norris as boxing's only current holders of rival world title belts by split decision at the Olympic Hall. Hill defended the IBF light heavyweight title for the 10th time of his second reign, and won the WBA belt in Maske's 11th defense.

Busier and more effective, Hill held the initiative after an inauspicious opening round by the German. Darting in and out, he never presented a stationary target and utilized his jab well to negate his opponent's longer reach and southpaw lead. Maske, supported by a capacity crowd of 13,000, was slow to get his punches off and failed to make his size and strength count. At no time did he look comfortable against the nifty American, and he desperately failed to adapt even when it was clear that his tactics were completely inadequate.

Sensibly using lateral movement from the outset, Hill, 32, claimed the first round comfortably, and the second as well. His nimble footwork enabled him to work around Maske, who characteristically had claimed the center of the ring. Occasionally, Maske, 32, tried to muscle his man into the ropes, where his blows may have caused damage, but his timing was poor and the majority of his efforts awkward and unprofitable.

Maske got home with a left in the fourth, with Hill stumbling, but more off-balance than hurt. Exchanges were scrappy and both fighters were guilty of missing. Hill, who was cut over the left eye in the fifth and developed slight swelling, scored more frequently, however, as his attacks tended to come in clusters. Maske was warned by referee Carlos Berrocal (Panama) at the start of the eighth for pulling down on his opponent and flinging him into the ropes as the German's frustration increased.

In the ninth, it was Maske, 30-1 (11), who stumbled, courtesy of a sharp right by Hill. And down the stretch, confident of his victory, Hill, 43-1 (20), glided in and out, catching the German with stinging blows and tying him up whenever Maske got close.

The decision was originally announced as unanimous, but was subsequently corrected to a split decision for Hill. Vittorio Urzo (Italy) scored 116-112 for Maske, with Franz Marti (Switzerland) and Rogelio Perez (Panama) favoring Hill by 115-113 and 116-113, respectively.

Afterward, Maske, a national hero, dropped to his knees and sobbed, apologizing to the crowd and repeating his declaration that this would be his last fight. As for the winner, Hill may next attempt to completely unify the title by engaging newly crowned WBC champion Roy Jones.

Promoters: Cedric Kushner and Wilfried Sauerland
(11-23-96)
Brian Doogan

Hill shows off his hardware

Photo by Hans Rauchensteiner

Jose Bonilla W 12 Saen Sor Ploenchit

Ubon Rachathani, Thailand: The unheralded Bonilla, El Tigre, Venezuela, scored a shocking unanimous decision upset, knocking off the long-reigning Ploenchit, Thailand, and winning the WBA flyweight title. It was Ploenchit's 10th defense.

Ploenchit, 26-1 (8), started strongly, attacking with success against the cautious challenger. Content to counterpunch, the elusive Bonilla, 20-3 (12), waited until the champion grew frustrated. When Ploenchit's blows became a bit wild over the second half of the bout, Bonilla repeatedly answered with light but fast combinations. The Venezuelan cemented his victory in the ninth, when he battered Ploenchit, 24, throughout the round.

Gustavo Padilla (Panama) and Hank Meijers (Netherlands) both scored 117-111 and Bergie Beronen (Finland) 117-114. The referee was Rafael Ramos (USA).

The 29-year-old Bonilla had previously been kayoed by Rosendo Alvarez and Jesus "Kiki" Rojas. His weak chin was not a factor in this fight.

Promoter: Songchai Ratanasuban
(11-24-96)
Joe Koizumi

Junior Jones W Disq. 5 Marco Antonio Barrera

Tampa, Florida: With his trainer, Tommy Brooks, as a common denominator, Jones shared most of his camp with Evander Holyfield, who was preparing for his upset of Mike Tyson. After Jones scored his own upset, beating the previously unbeaten Barrera at the Ice Palace, the media reasoned that Holyfield's confidence and positive thinking had rubbed off on the junior featherweight. Jones issued a correction. "It was great preparing with Evander," he said, "but I knew I was gonna beat Barrera. I've *always* known."

The 25-year-old Jones, 122, Brooklyn, New York, was an 8-1 underdog vs. pound-for-pound entrant Barrera, 122, Mexico City. But he looked a winner from the very start, sticking his outstanding jab in the first round and following with straight rights. In fact, Jones fired an incredible 54 jabs in the stanza, and before the three minutes were completed, he was forcing Barrera to retreat.

Barrera, 22, introduced his signature body attack in the second, pummeling Jones to the midsection. Barrera won the round, but when they battled inside, Jones competed evenly. Jones, 43-2

(26), regained control in the third, adding an effective hook to his attack. Barrera, 43-1 (31), double-hooked, and the warriors traded bombs. The fight was still to be decided, but two things had become clear, and both were in the underdog's favor. Firstly, Jones' chin was holding up. Secondly, Barrera's defense wasn't.

Jones continued his success in the fourth, at least until Barrera connected with a low left that brought a 20-second time out. When action was resumed, Barrera landed his best combination, a double-hook to head and body, and Jones responded with his, a classic one-two.

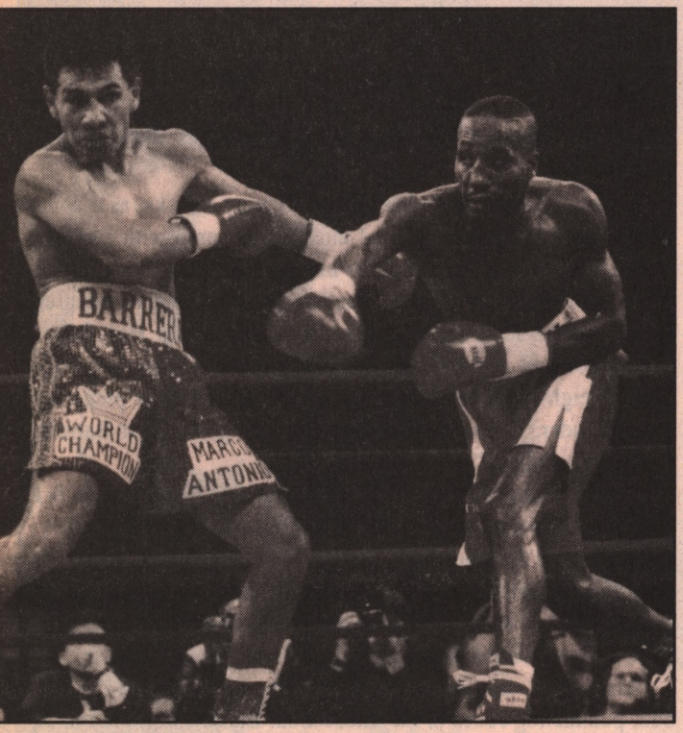
At the start of the fifth, Jones, who was bleeding from the nose, was caught by a hook and right. Barrera's advantage, however, was fleeting. Jones landed two big rights, then another, and Barrera showed a cut over his left eye. Then came another right—*boom!* With 27 seconds remaining in the round, Barrera suffered the third knockdown of his career. When he regained his feet, Jones drove him to the ropes and unloaded a multipunch flurry. The bell rang as Barrera began to slump to the canvas. Simultaneously, the Mexican's cornermen climbed through the ropes. After a delay and some controversy, referee Max Parker Jr. ruled that the corner's intervention had come before the end of the round. As a result, he declared Jones a disqualification winner.

Regardless of Parker's interpretation of how the events unfolded, Barrera was a beaten fighter at the sound of the bell.

"We're going to ask for a rematch because he didn't really beat me clean," said Barrera. "The bell rang, I dropped my hands, and he continued throwing punches."

Hey, Marco, if that's the way it happened, why didn't you protect yourself at all times?

Said Jones, "I'm the best junior featherweight in the division. I fought the better fighters [than Barrera], and I was champ before he was. [Barrera was the defending WBO titlist.] He's always wide-open. I let him get happy, get brave, let him go to the body, then ... "



Jones' right was all right against Barrera

Then he lowered the boom—as he always knew he would.

The bout was televised by HBO.

Promoters: Cedric Kushner, Forum Boxing

(11-22-96)

Roy Jones W 12 Mike McCallum

Tampa, Florida: This showdown of super-fighters present and past was overshadowed by a ridiculous and embarrassing controversy involving the WBC and the Florida State Athletic Commission. The unfortunate, and perhaps precedent-setting, result: Jones-McCallum, contested at the Ice Palace, was scored by two sets of judges. Fortunately, all six arbiters had Jones comfortably in front, and he was crowned the WBC interim light heavyweight champion, whatever that is.

(Jones remains the IBF super middleweight titlist. According to whom you ask, the recently inactive Fabrice Tiozzo either remains WBC light heavyweight champion, has vacated, or has been stripped.)

Noting that Jones hails from Florida, WBC President Jose Sulaiman rejected the commission's plan to employ three local judges (Ric Bays, Paul Herman, and Jay Kasees). But Executive Director Mike Scionti wouldn't budge, and minutes before Jones and McCallum made their respective ring walks, it was the Florida contingent that assumed the regular judges' seats. The WBC-assigned judges, Barbara Perez, Tom Kaczmarek, and Marty Denkin, worked from the press section.

What everyone saw was the 27-year-old Jones, 173, Pensacola, Florida, fight cautiously against old pro McCallum, 175, Las Vegas, who turned 40 two weeks after the bout. "Mike is a technician," explained Jones. "I haven't faced anyone with his skills. Why take a crazy chance with someone I can outspeed and outbox?"

Beginning in round two, Jones repeatedly stationed himself against the ropes and, with his hands low, scored with occasional flurries. McCallum threw more punches, but rarely connected flush; when Jones doesn't want to get hit, there's not a helluva lot anyone can do about it.

There was lots of booing, but Jones, alternately moving laterally and positioning himself along the ropes, never changed his tactics. As McCallum slowed, Jones, 34-0 (29), won round after round. The sole highlight came in the 10th, when a left-right dropped the steel-chinned McCallum, 49-4-1 (36). But the knockdown came just before the bell, and Jones was denied the opportunity to follow up.

Jones finished strongly in the 12th, though the outcome was hardly in doubt. For the record, all three Florida judges scored 120-107, while Perez (117-110), Kaczmarek (119-108), and Denkin (116-111) gave McCallum a round here or there. THE RING had Jones in front by 119-109.

It is anticipated that Jones will next take on WBA/IBF light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill.

The referee was Brian Garry (USA).

The bout was televised by HBO.

Promoter: Square Ring Inc.

(11-22-96)

Montell Griffin W 12 James Toney

Reno, Nevada: Quicker out of the gate, light heavyweight contender Griffin never allowed the lethargic Toney to muster a serious offensive en route to scoring a unanimous decision before a crowd of 4,223 at the Lawlor Events Center.

In addition to remaining undefeated, the 26-year-old Griffin, 173, Chicago, ruined Toney's chances of securing a rematch with Roy Jones. Toney, 175, Ann Arbor, Michigan, had predicted an early knockout, but just as in his first encounter with the awkward Griffin (a points loss in February 1995), he was frustrated.

Toney, 28, was more than frustrated at a prefight press conference two days before, when he pushed Griffin, who responded with a left hand that opened a cut inside Toney's lower lip. The Nevada State Athletic Commission fined both fighters $1,000 for the incident.

Jabbing out of a half-crouch, Griffin, 26-0 (18), gave Toney, 53-3-2 (35), lots of movement in the early rounds and built a considerable lead on the cards. Toney jabbed his way in and repeatedly tried to take Griffin out with big rights, but never came close to doing so.

Griffin's speed and double-jabs kept Toney off-balance throughout. By round four, Toney was breathing hard. He appeared to stun Griffin with an overhand right in that round, but he rarely punched in combination, preferring to jab at long range. He again shook Griffin with a right late in the 10th, but was too far behind by that point.

John Rupert and Keith MacDonald both scored 116-112 and Doug Tucker 119-109. All three judges are from the USA. THE RING scored 116-113 for Griffin. Interestingly, the CompuBox punchstats favored Toney, who landed 266 blows (44 percent) to Griffin's 231 (40 percent).

Said Toney, "Griffin ran the whole fight. I had figured I won at least nine of the 12 rounds. How could they give him the fight? That decision really surprised me. I really feel like I was robbed."

Griffin is now well-positioned to take on WBC interim 175-pound champion Jones. "I'm ready to fight anybody," he said, "but first I want Roy Jones because after beating Toney twice, I feel I'm positively the best light heavyweight in the world. I hope I don't have to beat everybody twice to move up to some serious money."

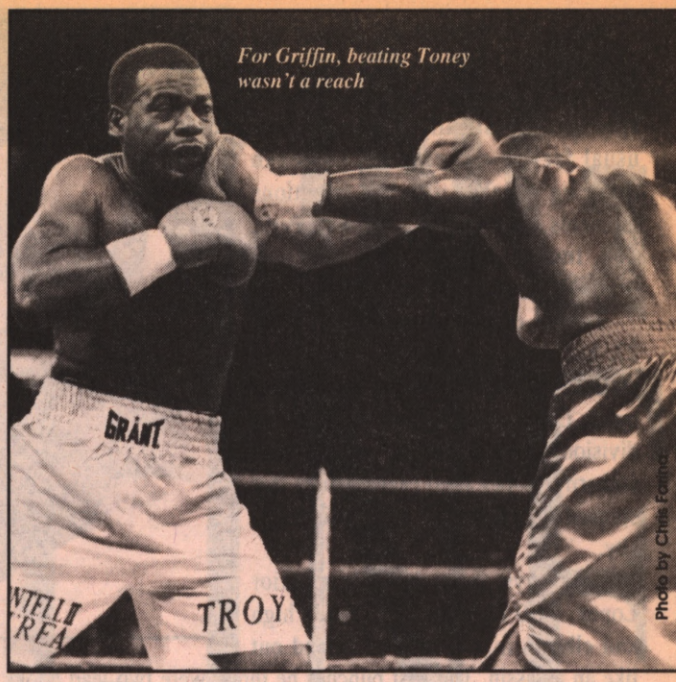
Griffin earned $187,000 and Toney $400,000.

The bout was televised by HBO.

Promoter: Top Rank, in conjunction with the Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority

(12-6-96)

Jack Welsh



For Griffin, beating Toney wasn't a reach

Photo by Chris Farina

Mbulelo Botile W 12 Aristead Clayton

Baton Rouge, Louisiana: IBF bantamweight champion Botile ruined hometown favorite Clayton's first crack at a world title by unanimously outpointing the challenger over 12 rounds before a packed house at The Belle of Baton Rouge Casino on the banks of the Mississippi River. It was Botile's fifth defense.

The matchup pitted the big-fight experience of Botile vs. the untested skills of Clayton. Experience prevailed.

Botile, 117½, East London, South Africa, had won three of his four previous defenses by knockout. After defeating Clayton, 118, Baker, Louisiana, he praised the efforts of the challenger. "I thought in the middle of the fight I would stop him," Botile said, "but he's a very good boxer."

Clayton used his speed, movement, and slick defense to keep the fight close over the first few rounds. In cutting off the ring, however, and cutting Clayton over the right eye in round six, Botile, 21-0 (13), spoiled the hopes of the partisan crowd. When the 26-year-old Clayton, 17-1 (11), failed to dance away from trouble, he clinched. And even though Botile, 24, didn't land the powerpunches that have characterized his reign, he clearly won the fight.

"He was a tough fighter," said Clayton, whose previous bouts had come at junior featherweight. "He came and did what he had to do. He showed he's a good fighter. He showed me he was the better fighter tonight."

John Femia (USA) scored 116-112, Pakamile Jacobs (South Africa) 120-108, and Bill Graham (USA) 117-111.

Although neither fighter was floored, a straight right snapped back Clayton's head in round three. From that point on, the challenger seemed reluctant to trade with the stronger Botile.

Les Bonano, Clayton's promoter, hinted that his fighter's next opportunity might come against IBF junior bantamweight champion Danny Romero on HBO's *Boxing After Dark.*

The bout was televised on the USA Network.

Promoter: Cedric Kushner

(11-26-96)

Charlie Bier

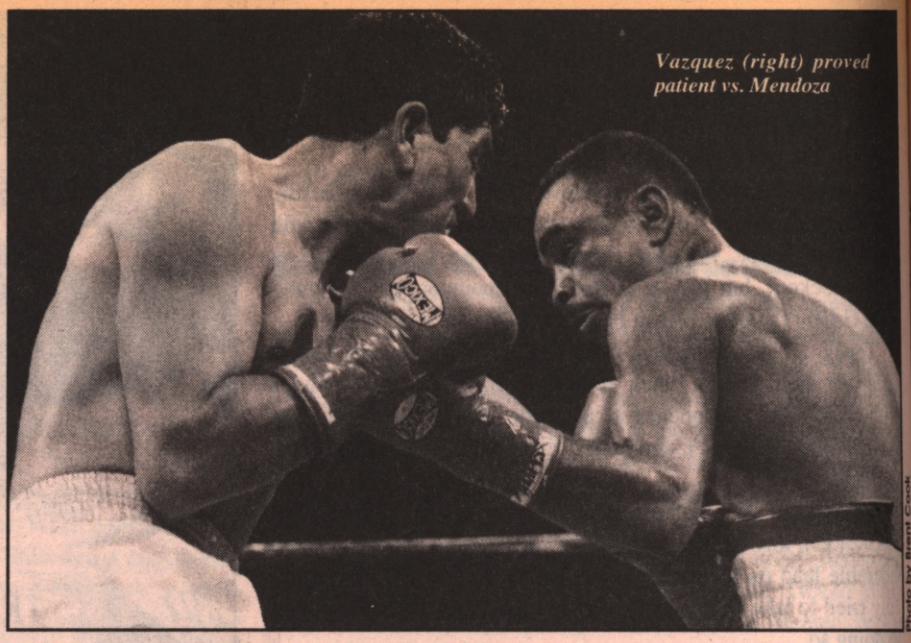
Ricardo Lopez KO 1 Myung Sup Park

Indio, California: Although savvy boxing fans have long appreciated the talents of WBC strawweight champion Lopez, the general public too often assumes fighters are like stacks of C-notes—the bigger the better.

So credit is due to Showtime and promoter Don King for daring to showcase Lopez, their secret mini-weapon, at the top of a Saturday night card outdoors at the Fantasy Springs Casino.

In his 18th defense, the 29-year-old Lopez, 103¾, Mexico City, appeared very much aware of the unaccustomed spotlight. Drastically condensing his usual feeling-out process, he began throwing punches with bad intentions moments after squaring off with Park, 103, Inchon, South Korea, who was unheard of outside his homeland.

Typical of Lopez' opponents, Park, 22, had no answer for the champion's arsenal. In a division where everyone is quick, Lopez was a bit quicker. And in a division where almost no one hits with authority, Lopez fired cannon shots that stunned the challenger with their intensity.



Vazquez (right) proved patient vs. Mendoza

Photo by Brad Cook

As always, the technically superior Lopez, 44-0 (34), kept his hands high and elbows in, and moved in and out like an assassin. The first punches he threw were two lead hooks that landed solid. Park, 11-5 (10), gamely shrugged them off but had no chance to counter. Lopez followed with a stinging jab, then a cobra-quick one-two.

After missing with a long right, Lopez caught the South Korean with a hook and Park went down hard. He made the count at nine, but looked confused and helpless. When referee Chuck Hassett (USA) allowed Park to continue, Lopez moved in and connected flush with five quick punches. Hassett jumped in, stopping it at 2:22 of round one.

The judges were Lou Filippo, Herbert Minn, and Sid Rubinstein, all from the USA.

Afterward, boxing's longest-reigning champion noted that he always pays attention to both sides of the boxing equation—hitting and not getting hit. "I decided to get him out of there before he had time to build any confidence," Lopez explained through an interpreter.

Even Lopez' most ardent fans must be at least a bit weary of watching him chew up the rest of the 105-pounders. The fact is, no one his size seems to have any chance at all. Some terrific contests—and bigger purses—await the gifted Mexican in the junior fly and flyweight divisions.

(12-7-96)

Ivan G. Goldman

Wilfredo Vazquez KO 5 Bernardo Mendoza

Indio, California: A veteran bantamweight and junior featherweight, Mendoza had fought at 126 pounds only twice before. That didn't stop the WBA from suddenly rating him 11th and feeding him to Vazquez, who made his first defense of the WBA featherweight title underneath Lopez-Park at the Fantasy Springs Casino.

Mendoza, 123, Santiago, Chile, climbed through the ropes with 55 fights worth of experience, but there were an awful lot of nobodies on his dance card, and he'd never before fought in the USA. In round one, he proved himself to be a guy who throws mostly wide, looping punches and runs a lot. A cagey veteran, Vazquez, 126, Bayamon, Puerto Rico, knew it would take time for him to find a way to win.

In the second, Mendoza, 33, tried standing his ground. Vazquez, 35, made him pay by landing a steady flow of varied shots. By round three, Mendoza was holding so much that referee Lou Moret (USA) penalized him a point.

Mendoza, 49-7 (29), discovered his jab in round four, which included his best moments. But 45 seconds into the fifth, he charged in, head low, throwing wild haymakers. Predictably, Vazquez, 47-7-3 (36), caught him with a one-two, and the challenger went down.

Mendoza barely beat the count and looked as wobbly as a newborn colt. For reasons only Moret could explain, the third man allowed the bout to continue. Vazquez subsequently caught Mendoza with a half-dozen blows, including a harmful overhand right. That prompted the Chilean's corner to throw in the towel. Moret, recognizing his mistake, was already stepping in. He halted the beating at the 2:37 mark.

The judges were Hubert Earle (Canada), Gonzalo Riveras (Venezuela), and Larry Rozadilla (USA).

Mendoza, Vazquez complained afterward through an interpreter, "threw crazy punches," and a fighter like that "can make you look bad."

Already a triple-crown champion, Vazquez wants a shot at the junior lightweight title. But first he's gunning for the winner of February's showdown between Prince Naseem Hamed and IBF featherweight champion Tom "Boom Boom" Johnson. That would guarantee Vazquez, a veteran of 16 years in the pros, a decent payday before he retires.

Two interesting (and unrelated) points: Firstly, Tutico Zabala, who manages Vazquez, guided Mendoza in 1988. Secondly, there's never been a world champion from Chile.

The bout was televised on Showtime.

Promoter: Don King

(12-7-96)

Ivan G. Goldman ■

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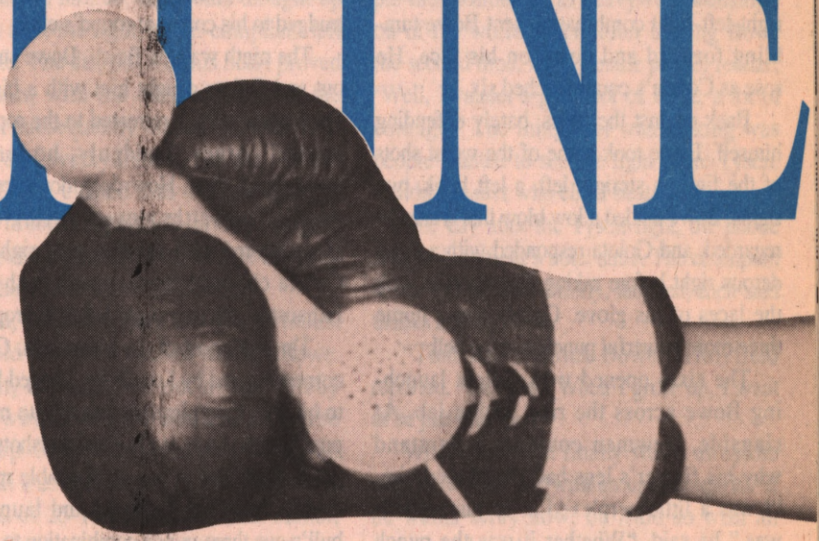

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Bowe-Golota II

(Continued from page 37)

It proved the final turning point of the fight. The 90-second rest break afforded Bowe by the referee was, in fact, more beneficial to Golota. Granted, Golota had another point deducted, giving Bowe a 10-7 round, but his illegal damage had been done.

The two traded up to the bell, and when Bowe went back to his corner, he appeared exhausted.

Golota owned the rest of the fight. In the fifth, he slammed a right to Bowe's body and followed with a good left. Bowe stumbled, recovered, and inhaled deeply. Golota then staggered his foe with a right, and a right-left-right combination sent Bowe tumbling forward and down on his face. He rose as Cotton's count reached six.

Back against the ropes, barely defending himself, Bowe took some of the worst shots of the fight: a straight left, a left hook, two rights. Bowe landed a low blow that went disregarded, and Golota responded with a thunderous right before raking Bowe's face with the laces of his glove. Golota drove home three more powerful punches at the bell.

The sixth opened with Golota launching Bowe across the ring with a jab. At ringside, Newman couldn't understand why his fighter's legs had abandoned him. "I was a little perplexed as to just what it was," he said. "Whether it was the punch high on the head [in the second round], the low blows—I couldn't figure it out."

Torrence blamed the low blows.

"When you get hit low, it doesn't just affect you now, it affects you later," he said. "When guys hit you low, they can destroy your future. This Golota is a big, strong kid. He's a tough and gutty guy. But when the going gets rough, he tries to get a rest and hits a guy low."

Golota earned a warning for hitting behind the head. While Bowe committed his share of fouls through the course of the fight, Cotton firmly focused on Golota and his reputation.

Leg-weary or not, Bowe began to display his massive courage in the sixth round. He stalked Golota into his own corner and the two traded bombs. All kinds of shots flew—legal and illegal—and both big men were exhausted at the bell.

Both opened the seventh jabbing, and Bowe struck first with a hard right to the head that sent water spraying. But Golota drove Bowe into a corner and unleashed two powerful rights and a short uppercut inside. Bowe staggered and Golota turned southpaw and snapped the former champion's head back with a right. For more than a minute, Bowe stayed on the ropes, absorbing punishment. When he finally emerged, Golota rocked him with a lead right. He then landed yet another tremendous right and Bowe tumbled all the way across the ring into the ropes. Only the bell saved him.

The eighth was bad for Bowe, but not as bad as the seventh had been. He wobbled around, but also willed himself to compete. With the cut above his eye reopened, Golota continued to tear into Bowe, who wearily trudged to his corner at round's end.

The ninth was the finish. Bowe stumbled out and Golota caught him with a big right. Once again, Bowe retreated to the ropes in a neutral corner. Suddenly, he landed a tremendous right. How deep down could he reach? The battle moved to ring center. Bowe scored with another good right while Golota chopped crudely with both hands. Exhausted, the two stumbled to the ropes.

Through most of the late stages, Golota's cornermen, led by Lou Duva, begged him not to hit low; they pleaded with him to not even punch to the body at all. The headshots would get it done. But in one inexplicable moment, Golota lowered his head and launched a bull's-eye three-punch combination to the one place he wasn't supposed to go.

And down went Bowe. And out went Golota, waved into the book of infamy by Cotton at 2:57 of the round. The ring quickly filled, but the violence triggered in the first fight never materialized. The crowd grew silent, bewildered. It just couldn't be true.

***

At the postfight press conference, the writers wanted to know if Bowe would fight Golota again.

"Man, is you crazy?" Bowe snapped back. "I'm not as dumb as I look. Why would I fight Golota a third time?"

"I'll be honest with you," Duva said, "the way I feel about it right now—I don't know how Golota feels—I'm going to sit down with Andrew and ask him in no uncertain terms if he wants to continue fighting ... Why go on?"

The answer to that question is easy. Because he's one of the best heavyweights in the world. And unless he simply cannot complete a fight without fouling out (enter the psychopathologist), he's going to make several million dollars more, and maybe even win a heavyweight championship along the way.

The better person to ask "Why go on?" is Bowe.

The first and foremost reason is his health. Plenty of people, particularly the New York-based writers, don't much care for Newman. But no one dislikes Bowe. He's a loving husband and father, a man who pulled himself out of not much in Brooklyn, and presented himself the American Dream. Now he's a former champion who, victories aside, has suffered two brutal beatings in a row. (After eight rounds of the rematch vs. Golota, he trailed by scores of 75-71, 75-73, and 74-72.) The slurring of words is the red flag of caution for a boxer.

Dr. Barry Jordan, medical director of the New York State Athletic Commission from 1987 to 1995, and medical adviser to the Association of Boxing Physicians, heard Bowe slurring.

"I'm not sure what was causing the slurs after the fight," Jordan said. "He might have been groggy or dehydrated."

Jordan said physicians see two patterns to boxing-related brain injuries: those from cumulative, long-term exposure, and those that occur quickly after one fight. Jordan said he noticed a change in Meldrick Taylor right after the Philadelphian's brutal war with Julio Cesar Chavez, but said it would be unfair to comment on Bowe's condition without seeing a complete neurological examination.

"If you document some definite, significant neurological changes, you recommend they stop boxing," he said.

Newman said Bowe received a clean bill of health two days after the fight, with the attending physician describing Bowe as "amazingly normal."

That said, why not retire now? Why should Bowe push his luck? His position as one of the finest heavyweights of his time is irrefutable. His finances ought to be set for life. He was the champion of the world. There are no more mountains in the ring to climb. At least no new mountains.

"I wouldn't have no problem at all," Torrence said when asked about Bowe quitting. "He's a great guy, a lovely guy. He's got a lovely family. He's made a lot of money and this kid—his heart is as big as a lion."

Newman also said he would have no

problem if Bowe decided to put down his gloves. But he also stressed that Bowe could choose to remain in shape, get back into the gym after a brief rest, and head right back into action.

"We appreciate all the concern there is," Newman said. "Riddick is surrounded by a group of people whose only interest is his best interest. We would be more careful than anyone on the outside looking in.

"People are saying he should retire because he's taken a lot of punishment, but look at the punishment Evander Holyfield took in his three fights with Riddick. That concern was the same concern given to Evander.

"Riddick's in a situation where he is surrounded by people who don't need him to continue to fight to survive. The decision will be a candid one, and it won't be based on any financial need, and that's good."

Back at his home, Futch could only look on. Wanting to call Bowe, he refrained, worried it would appear as if he were gloating. But when he saw that press conference and heard Bowe talk, his heart went out to his former fighter.

"He talked," Futch said sadly, "like a guy who had been through 100 fights." ■

John Scheinman, a frequent contributor to The Ring, is based in Washington, D.C.

Fighter Of The Year

(Continued from page 42)

Back in 1986, Holyfield was preparing to fight for his first title, against cruiserweight champion Dwight Muhammad Qawi. The challenger was 23, but you might as well have dropped the first digit because Qawi looked at him as a toddler.

"He was saying stuff like, 'You crybaby! Why are you people sending this baby to fight me? I'm gonna whip you,'" Holyfield recalls. "He even burnt a shirt that had my picture on it. He embarrassed me in front of my whole city. People were calling radio stations, saying they felt sorry for me. He had a scary reputation. People said, 'Here's a guy from Rahway Prison.' Why do people think you're tougher if you've been to prison? It's like, 'You've had a bad life, you've been in trouble, that makes you more gutsy.' I don't understand that."

Holyfield was particularly disturbed when Qawi grabbed him by the shirt collar during a national TV interview. "When they asked me a question, I couldn't even talk because I was so [shook up], so they had to cut [the interview]," he recalls. Holyfield's fear ended at the prefight press conference, when Qawi said to him, "You think you're bad, don't you?"

"That told me, 'Hey, he thinks *I'm* bad,'" says Holyfield. He hasn't been scared since.

Strange, because so many have been scared for him. There was the beating he took in the first Bowe fight. There were wars with George Foreman, Bert Cooper, and Bowe again. There was the title fight loss to Michael Moorer during which Holyfield suffered from shoulder pain, dehydration, fatigue, and, some thought up to days after the fight, a non-compliant left ventricle. The diagnosis of his heart proved erroneous, with the complications in the hospital subsequently blamed on overmedication and overhydration. But even as the Mayo Clinic cleared him to fight again, it was as if some expected Holyfield to grab his chest like Fred Sanford and, in the middle of the Tyson fight, keel over.

Then, too, there were the recent results. Holyfield lost for a second time to Bowe. He beat, but couldn't put down, Bobby Czyz, who had been booked from the Lollipop Guild. Oddsmakers installed Tyson as a 25-1 favorite.

Odds of 25-1!?! What did Don Turner, Holyfield's trainer, say? "You believe that? Man's got to be blind, crippled, and in a wheelchair for those odds."

Holyfield was none of those things. He was victorious—*before* the fight. The weeks leading up to November 9 weren't a fight promotion as much as a spiritual revival. Holyfield praised God for strength and for enabling him to get the fight. At first, members of the media were reluctant to take notes. But the more Holyfield spoke, the more they paid attention, and the more they chronicled his religious beliefs. He was predestined to win the title back, he said, echoing his words from before the second Bowe fight. "I've already won—I've just got to show up," he said three weeks before his date with Tyson. "I'm just as much three-time heavyweight champion now as I will be after the fight."

At the final prefight press conference, Holyfield repeated words to that effect. Tyson looked at him as if he was one egg roll short of a combination plate. But damn if Holyfield hadn't been right. He didn't just beat Tyson, he beat him easily. And there's no hesitation to do it again, only this time Holyfield, in a possible career finale, will make $40-million, not $12-million, which was his purse the first time around. And would it make a difference if Tyson won this time? No. Holyfield's place in history is secure.

"It's been a long time coming, and I thank God for letting these things happen," Holyfield says. "In 1990 [when he first won the title], I expected to have a lot of endorsements and to be known worldwide. I made a lot of money, and that satisfied me to a certain extent. But I didn't get blown up like I thought I should have as far as the media market. It made me realize that maybe people didn't think I was heavyweight champion of the world. Then, after beating Bowe the second time, it only made people realize, 'Well, Evander's got a lot of heart, a lot of courage.' The thing that was lacking was people wanted to see me fight Mike Tyson. It didn't matter who else I beat."

The day after the Tyson fight, the phone rang in Holyfield's hotel suite. The champion spoke to the caller briefly, laughed, then said thanks and goodbye.

"That was Riddick Bowe," Holyfield reported. "He said, 'When I grow up, I want to be just like you.'"

When Holyfield finally walks away, he says he will do so "with an upright spirit." If he walks away now, he'll do so with an upright body. A bigger, taller body. ■

Jeff Schultz is a boxing writer for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

city's most promising pro fighter since Starling.

Manager Angelo Giammarco handles the financial aspects of Vazquez' career. The hands-on training is supplied by Vazquez' father, Angel Vazquez Sr. Cruz is the brain-trust, the adviser, the mentor. Harmony exists within this mini-family because Cruz' word is gospel. And because they respect each other.

Vazquez, who speaks little English, defers to Cruz when dealing with the media.

"I am very grateful, very fortunate, to be surrounded by good people such as [George], my father, and Angelo," the fighter says through Cruz, his interpreter.

A year ago, Vazquez was regarded by

much of the boxing world as little more than an opponent. Today, with 10 knockouts in 12 fights, Vazquez, 12-0, may be a fight away from contending for the world featherweight title.

Vazquez has a shot at boxing's royal crown for two reasons. First, he has a knockout punch that can shatter the Great Pyramids of Egypt. More importantly, he has the "family" to bolster his self-confidence and his career.

"It bothers him, not getting the [national] respect," says Cruz. "As far as I'm concerned, he has world champion written all over him. Over here, kids are held as role models, and he can be the perfect role model for the kids, if he gets the attention ... "

It took Vazquez nearly two years to gain the attention of the boxing community. After turning pro in 1995, the 5'7½", 126-pounder scored nine straight wins over mostly forgettable opponents. In his last three fights, however, he's rattled off impressive nationally televised knockout victories over respected featherweights Tony Green, Greg Torres, and Miguel Arrozal. Green was a longtime contender, and Arrozal has been ranked as high as fourth by the WBA.

Now there is a buzz that this one-time "opponent" is the real thing. In fact, Philadelphia-based promoter Russell Peltz recently signed Vazquez to a promotional contract. Peltz is hoping to land an HBO fight with IBF champion Tom Johnson.

"He just knocked out a guy [Arrozal] who is made of granite," says Peltz. "The word is out; there's nothing like TV exposure, knowing about a guy. There's nothing like a pure puncher; he makes money and he puts fans in the seats. He makes people stand up in attention."

Vazquez caught Cruz' attention the first time he stepped into the ring. Cruz trained the fighter until 1986, when the Vazquez family moved to Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico. During his five years there, Vazquez won 35 of 36 amateur fights under the tutelage of his father.

In 1991, Vazquez returned to Hartford and won six more amateur fights. Despite his sterling record, he elected not to pursue a spot with the U.S. National Team, or even pursue a Golden Gloves title.

Economics, and a burning desire to be a professional success, led him to turn pro two years ago.

"Boxing is a way for me to get my family a house and a decent car," explains Vazquez. "If all goes well, I will be a world champ."

His road to national respect and recognition started with the Green fight, in boxing's lion's den, Philly's Blue Horizon.

"I remember before the fight I helped out in the corner a little bit, and I remember thinking, *I hope the whole thing doesn't overwhelm him,* and I kept looking at him," says Vazquez' friend, light heavyweight John Scully. "I was looking for a sign that he was choking, but I didn't see it. He walked out and the crowd didn't seem to phase him. He just took his time."

But not that much time. Vazquez kayoed Green 49 seconds into the first round.

A month later, the featherweight faced Torres in an affair that was far less compelling than the weigh-in.

"Torres was so cocky," recalls Scully. "They were calling Nito names and saying he'd never gone more than six rounds. 'You're in for a beating,' they said. Nito took it real personal."

After closing Torres' left eye and knocking him to the canvas in round one, Vazquez ended the bout 59 seconds into the second.

In November, Vazquez squared off with the veteran Arrozal for a scheduled 10-rounder, broadcast on the USA Network's *Tuesday Night Fights*. Same result as the previous two fights. After getting stung early, Vazquez floored Arrozal three times en route to a first-round kayo victory.

"That fight woke up everyone," says Peltz.

But was Vazquez' impressive performance enough to rouse Johnson's interest? Is an upstart fighter with a killer knockout punch the type of contender for which Johnson, or any other world champion, is willing to risk his belt? Can a Johnson-Vazquez matchup command the type of paycheck to satisfy the titleholder? After all, at the top level, boxing is all about risk vs. reward. And Vazquez' recent kayo wins suggest he'd be a high-risk challenger.

From Vazquez' perspective, given that he's never fought beyond six rounds, does he have the stamina to go the distance with a world champion?

"We'll never know until it happens," acknowledges Peltz.

Cruz, however, is confident in his charge: "We've had him spar as many as 10 and 15 rounds with guys who are 160 pounds. He has the stamina."

Ultimately, the answers to these questions, and the key to Vazquez' future, may not rest in his gloves, but rather in his heart.

"I don't worry about losing," Vazquez says. "I want to be a champion, I want to be a big asset to my community, so that I can talk to kids."

A world title would allow Vazquez to escape the drug lords, the crime, the oppression, the temptation of the inner-city projects.

"Boxing is his life," adds Cruz. "The kid will not quit on me; we want no quitters here."

A sign posted in the San Juan Center emphasizes Cruz' edict: A WINNER NEVER QUITS; A QUITTER NEVER WINS. So far, at least, Vazquez has done nothing but win. ■

Bryan Ethier is a freelance writer based in Old Saybrook, Connecticut.

Nigel Benn

(Continued from page 23)

only bad intentions to the boxing ring, and then to Chris Eubank, an enigma in boxing gloves who fluctuated between the devastating and the devastatingly dull. Such setbacks did not matter. Benn may have been a flawed fighter, but that was part of the appeal. Win or lose, he could exit even Rome's Colisseum on his shield.

This was blatantly demonstrated in February 1995, when Benn endured 10 rounds of unremitting brutality with Gerald McClellan before the American's considerable effort took him to the brink of death. Emergency surgery saved him, but now he leads a cruelly restricted half-blind, half-knowing existence in Illinois. Savagery, as they experienced, is almost too much to behold, and veteran judges of the fight game were moved to describe Benn's performance, in which he rallied from first-round disaster after being punched out of the ring to an unlikely knockout victory, as the most explicit example of raw courage in more than 40 years of watching fights.

Benn's past bore little resemblance to his finale, nor indeed with a childhood on the streets of London in which violence, manifested in the meting out of punishment to racist bullies and others, was featured prominently. The fury was evident enough in spurts against Irishman Steve Collins in their rematch, which had been made inevitable by the circumstances of Benn's defeat in June, when he suffered an incapac-

itating ankle injury during the fourth round. But it was not sustained, and the manner of his submission after six rounds on a cold November night in Manchester, which proved such a complete abandonment of old values, polarized the 22,000 capacity crowd at the cavernous Nynex Arena into drowning out his (final) farewell address with a cascade of boos and howls of derision.

Collins had charged into the ascendancy, but Benn did not look a man in particular distress when his corner decided to pull him from battle. THE RING had the fight even, and two judges had Collins only two points in front. An increasing number of shots were connecting with his head after Collins furthered his effectiveness by stepping off his opponent, allowing for more leverage on his punches. But Benn had been in wars before, and having explored the very limits of his being in the most demanding contest sport can place on a man, the formbook suggested "The Dark Destroyer" would produce one final fling.

"People expect me to keep having wars, and over the last 10 years that's what I've done," Benn said later. "I know they were not happy to see me quit that way. They wanted to see my blood and guts spilled all over the place. But there was no point in carrying on and getting badly hurt.

"£200 doesn't buy anyone the right to see me end up in a wheelchair. My manager, Peter DeFreitas, called it off because he thought of Gerald McClellan and what I did to him. He did not want the same thing to happen to me, so I believe he was right to stop the fight when he did."

One of many observers who think that he wasn't is Mickey Duff, who, along with Terry Lawless and Jarvis Astaire, exerted a monopoly on the British fight scene for 30 years. He acknowledges that Benn had little to prove in terms of courage, but questions whether he should have been in the ring at all.

"It wasn't his corner that pulled him out," Duff asserted. "If you watch a tape of the fight, you will see Benn nodding to his corner on his way back at the end of the sixth round. But he should have taken a lot more criticism for *taking* the fight. It takes money to solve a lot of problems in this world, unfortunately, and he was getting paid a lot, but he's got plenty already.

"It's very rare that I agree with [promoter] Frank Warren, but he was right to say Benn had done boxing a disservice. I can't call Benn a coward for what he did. He showed as much courage as any fighter I've ever seen against Gerald McClellan. That was a fight won on pure courage. But Nigel was never the same again. I think there has to be a middle ground. I don't think fighters should be expected to give as much as Benn did against McClellan. There are various degrees of courage. Sometimes it depends on which side of the bed you get off in the morning. A fighter can be much braver one day than he is the next."

Maybe. But it is almost certain that the experience of McClellan buried a large part of Benn's courage in a deep recess to which he was no longer willing to seek access.

"If I had gone on maybe just one more round, I would have been seriously hurt," he said a few days after the fight. "The fans who booed—did they want to see me come out paralyzed? I didn't. Did they consider the state of Gerald McClellan and Michael Watson [who was severely damaged after a fight with Eubank]? I did. I've always wanted to quit boxing with my faculties intact. I couldn't live life the way Gerald McClellan now has to. I think about him a lot and it hurts. He was definitely my toughest foe. At one point he hit me so hard that I heard my neck snap. When it was over, I was shaking uncontrollably and was urinating blood. It took me weeks to get over it, and I didn't want to ever go through that again."

The cataclysmic effect the episode had on him was no doubt compounded by the cruel quirk of fate that placed him and McClellan in adjacent beds in the Royal London Hospital. Disregarding the fatigue that had overcome him at the conclusion of the bout, thus necessitating his admission to the hospital, Benn walked over to McClellan's bedside, kissed his forehead, and said, "I'm sorry." When he gazed at the life form in front of him, Benn, a student of the streets, must have realized in an instant exactly what a crude and questionable activity boxing is. If he did think of McClellan's reduced condition during the Collins fight, he can hardly be blamed. But if his corner went in with the intention of getting him out of there as soon as things were strategically no longer going his way, they are open to serious questions about why they allowed him into the ring that night at all. In the end, they opted not to pull the plug before testing the strength of the lights. In truth, though,

(Continued on page 59)

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Nigel Benn

(Continued from page 57)

ever since the herculean struggle against McClellan, the lights had been dimming at an irrepressible rate.

"You've only got a certain number of those kind of performances in you, and only Nigel would have known what he had left in the tank," said former WBC lightweight champion Jim Watt, now an incisive TV boxing analyst. In his last bout, Watt was hopelessly outclassed by a machine gun-like Alexis Arguello, but went the 15 rounds despite his corner's desire to pull him out.

"We criticize referees and corners for not stopping fights soon enough," Watt continued. "Why should we criticize a fighter who gives it his best shot and knows that it's not going to be good enough? He knows better than anybody. They're not John Wayne in there. Boxing's for real. About 95 percent of the people around boxing have never laced up a glove in their life, and it's all very well them saying that he quit.

"Because I wouldn't do it doesn't mean I approve or disapprove of what Nigel Benn did. Maybe he's a bit smarter than I was. But I don't regret what I did in my last fight, and I sincerely hope that he doesn't regret what he did. Roberto Duran was forgiven for quitting twice; the vast majority of the public probably cannot recall the name of the fighter he quit against the second time [Pat Lawlor]. It may take time, but Benn will be forgiven, too."

When Benn packed up after the sixth round, retribution, rather than remission, was on the mind of most punters, no doubt influenced greatly by the cost to their pocket of tickets, and their expectation of witnessing a conclusive ending. Collins, a tough brawler from Dublin who learned his trade under the Petronelli brothers in Brockton, Massachusetts, and hit the big-time with two decision victories over Benn's arch-rival, Eubank, began the bout cautiously, but by the third round was beginning to drive home heavy punches. Benn's tactic was to bob and weave and employ lateral movement to avoid Collins' uppercuts, which came into play as the fight wore on. For the first three rounds the strategy worked, and though it was not decisive, he definitely had an edge. Collins plowed through the shots that Benn fired at him, but a couple shook him up and forced him to hold on.

Collins, 34-3 (19), was warned for persistent headbutting in the fourth, and referee Paul Thomas deducted a point from his total. The pace of proceedings and the powerpunches being thrown by both fighters suggested the cards may not be necessary. Boxing from longer range, Collins took control in this round and began to connect with long right hands that clearly knocked Benn, 42-5-1 (35), out of his stride. There were more in the next two rounds, and a particularly punishing combination of blows midway through the sixth.

At the end of the fourth, Benn's trainer, Kevin Sanders, who in 1994 worked the corner of Robert Wangila in a bout that injured the Kenyan so severely, he died 36 hours later, told his charge he was going to stop the fight if he didn't start firing back. Benn was given a stay of execution at the end of the fifth, but knew the end was near when the bell rang to close out the sixth and so end his career in boxing.

"It was a sad night for British boxing," insisted promoter Warren. "It's a shame for Nigel that he went out like that. I didn't think at that stage he was taking a terrible beating. There were no knockdowns, and he was landing some heavy punches himself. I've managed quite a few fighters and retired some guys. But there's no way I would've stopped Nigel fighting on."

To complete his fall from grace, Benn was charged five days after the bout with a violent assault that left a former friend needing 106 stitches. He was kept in police custody overnight and got £50,000 bail. Tickets agency boss Ray Sullivan, 34, was allegedly smashed in the face with a champagne glass in London's Legends club. The police had taken a dozen statements from witnesses, but decided not to act until after Benn's clash with Collins for fear that an arrest would precipitate race riots. That is an indication of the type of popularity Benn has enjoyed, and the British public, in due time, is likely to be as generous when people accord him his place in boxing history.

"Whatever the climax of Benn's career, it doesn't detract from his achievements," said Watt. "Knocking out Iran Barkley in one round after taking the WBO middleweight title from Doug DeWitt; going to Italy to

(Continued on page 61)

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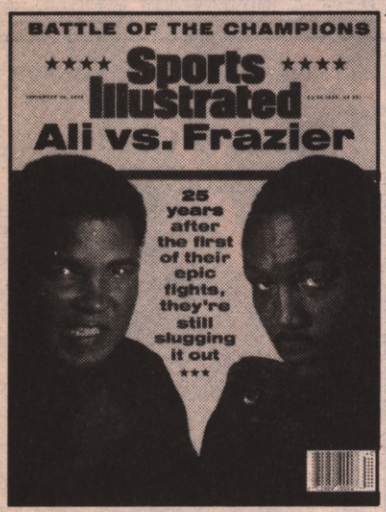

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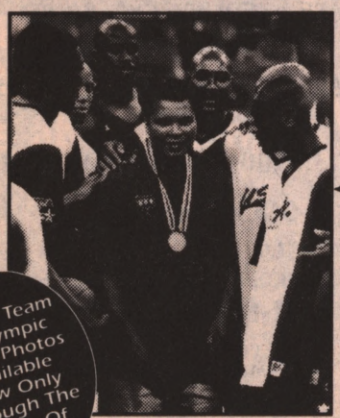

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Nigel Benn

(Continued from page 59)

beat Mauro Galvano for the WBC super middleweight crown; getting the draw with Eubank in the second fight, which I thought he won; and those fantastic 10 rounds against McClellan that answered any questions anyone may have had about his courage.

"He was one of the most exciting fighters Britain has ever produced, and we've had a lot of exciting little fighters. I'm not saying he was the best, but he brought a lot of pleasure and excitement to so many people. I always say the mark of a good fighter is how he reacts to adversity, and Benn's reaction was always to meet the danger head-on."

Maybe in the end, cruel thoughts gave way to considerations of a more cerebral nature. The heroism displayed by fighters from Benny Paret to Duk Koo Kim to McClellan has probably persuaded the paying public to demand too much from fighting men. Benn knew the danger of carrying on for possibly only one more round. Even warriors have brains. ■

Brian Doogan is The Ring's correspondent for Europe.

David Reid

(Continued from page 33)

He underwent the first procedure on December 4 at the Wilmer Institute of Johns Hopkins Hospital. The routine surgery was successfully performed by Baltimore ophthalmologist Dr. Michael Repka.

"At first, I wasn't scared," recalled Reid. "I just wanted to get it on, but then, all of a sudden, it was, 'Come on, Dave. Now it's your turn.' Oh man, my heart was pumping fast. It was similar to going out to fight, because everybody was looking at me.

"They put something in my arm that knocked me right out, put me right to sleep. When I woke back up, I had a big patch on my eye. Then I had to go into Dr. Repka's room, and he took the patch off. I had some strings in my eye, and Dr. Repka took the strings and pulled my [left] eye up so that it would be in line with my right eye. At first, my vision was a little bit off, but he said that my brain was going to straighten it, which it did in about four days. It was real ugly at first. I looked like a vampire hungry for blood, but the surgery was a success. I can see a whole lot better now."

As we went to press, Reid was scheduled to undergo a second operation sometime in January, this time to fix the eyelid muscle, then wait another four to six weeks before beginning serious training.

Meanwhile, Reid has had plenty to keep him busy. He stays close to his fighting weight by running along the banks of the Schuylkill River and working out two or three days a week at the 26th & Masters Recreation Center, where he first learned to box at age 10. He's also been in much demand on the banquet circuit and for personal appearances. But when the pressures of being a celebrity get to be too much, Reid retreats to his new domicile, away from the spotlight, the hangers-on, and the mean streets where he grew up.

"I feel a whole lot more comfortable here," said Reid as he showed a visitor around his one-bedroom apartment. "Life is easier. Only certain people come by, because when I'm here I don't like to be bothered. I like to be by myself. It's quiet."

Reid's idea of relaxation is sitting on the couch, playing video games, or rustling up some grub in the kitchen. His mother taught him how to cook when he was a boy, and on the evening THE RING visited, steak and rice were on the menu. Still, Reid is keenly aware that his downtime will soon end, and the rigors of a professional career will begin.

"I know that, opponent-wise, the pro game is going to be a whole lot easier at first," said Reid. "In the amateurs, you would fight in a five-fight tournament, and you'd be fighting all rated guys, the very best. It's not like that in the pros. But you know what? I want my first fight to be against somebody who has some skills, who knows what he's doing and wants to give me a fight. It just doesn't interest me when I go in there with a fighter who's not all that good. I don't want him to be *tough*-tough. But I want somebody who will be there to fight, because if the people see that the other guy is overmatched, they're gonna lose interest."

The man whose task it is to find the appropriate opponents for Reid is America Presents matchmaker Eric Bottjer.

"David's importance to us is obvious," said Bottjer. "We want to have a blueprint for his career, and I intend to talk with Al Mitchell [Reid's Olympic coach and manager] about opponents. It's too early to make any definite decisions, but a guy like Pat Lawlor would be perfect for his first fight. Pat doesn't figure to beat David, but he's been on TV a lot and has those wins over Roberto Duran and Wilfred Benitez."

America Presents has also recently signed IBF middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins, so fans can expect to see the pair of Philadelphians featured on the same show at least once in '97, maybe even in their hometown.

But all that is still in the future. Right now, Reid's toughest opponent is inertia. Although essential, the delay has been exasperating for the energetic 23-year-old, especially when he sees his fellow Olympians already fighting professionally.

"It bothers me a whole lot, because I'm an Olympic gold medalist and all eyes are on me," said Reid. "And because I just got this big contract, people want to see if I can perform. They want to see if I'm really that good, and not just a puncher. It got me hyped up to see a close friend of mine, Zahir Raheem, turn pro ... and Terrance Cauthen just had his first pro fight. Floyd Mayweather's had two. To see them guys fight, man, you know it got me hyped up so much. Sometimes I get very frustrated, but I've just gotta be patient and wait." ■

Ray Actis

(Continued from page 45)

the grand old man of pugdom in The City by the Bay. Herman had been a boxer, manager, trainer, and gym owner in his 82 years, and knew the sport better than most.

"I've seen 'em all in my time," he told Muller, "but Actis, in my book, hit harder than any fighter that climbed into the ring. I'm not kidding when I say I was scared every time I saw him fight. I actually thought he was capable of killing an opponent with one punch."

Luckily, that unhappy prospect never came to pass. But the impressions of the people who watched him, and those who were punched by him, notwithstanding, Actis himself says it was actually because he never hit anybody as hard as he could.

"No, I never hit that hard," says the 85-year-old Actis, who was THE RING'S fifth-ranked light heavyweight in 1936 and '37. "I didn't hit with all my might. I just had a short left hook, and it was really only a chop, a stinger."

It sounds like what somebody wielding a fly swatter would say, too, but the flies would probably describe the impact differently. So would the 18 guys flattened by Actis in his first 19 bouts. It was 1932, the shank of the Great Depression, and Actis, whose parents came to America from Italy four years before he was born in 1911, had become a boxer because it paid better than the $1.50 he earned caddying at Bay Area golf courses to help his struggling family.

"You're really built for boxing," somebody told him, appraising his sculpted physique, the most striking feature of which was a pair of shoulders that looked as wide as the Golden Gate Bridge. An early press clipping said of Actis, " ... his broad shoulders and muscular back development have endowed him with terrific punching power. In his actions, when throwing a left hook or right cross, he brings the full swing of his body into play. Quite often, he purposely misses an opponent with a swinging right to place himself in position to throw a left hook. With this stance, which gives him the appearance of a southpaw, Actis actually brings his full weight of 162 pounds into the drive."

It happened so naturally and effortlessly, adds Actis, that "a lot of times I never knew I threw it, and I'd see a guy on the floor and ask myself, *What the hell did he go down from?*"

Usually, his hands answered that question for him. "I hurt 'em a lot; after every fight I had to have my gloves cut off because my hands were swollen up like balloons," says Actis. "My knuckles would be pushed back so far that I'd have to work 'em back where they belonged, and then would have to lay off for four, five months.

"If it wasn't for bad hands, I wouldn't have been afraid to punch hard."

They called him "The Excelsior Assassin" because he came from San Francisco's Excelsior district, and after the bodies started flying in the ring, another nickname was added: "The Italian Stanley Ketchel."

Frisco sports editor Tom Laird wrote that "so far as punching power is concerned, Actis hits exactly as Ketchel did. Pound-for-pound, Actis punches as hard as any fighter in the game, not excepting 'The Prince Of Punch,' Max Baer."

"That's one man's opinion," says Actis modestly, but his comparison to one of boxing's most famous and ferocious champions was taken seriously by people who, just 25 years after Ketchel's death, were in a position to make that case. The press even went so far as to print side-by-side comparisons of Actis' ring record in 1935, when he was 27-1-3 (23), and that of Ketchel in his first 40 bouts, 27-5-2 (24) with 4 no-decisions.

If nothing else, it made good copy. In Actis' scrapbook, there's a newspaper photo of him gazing at a picture of "The Michigan Assassin" and, according to the caption, "wondering if he will go down in fistic history alongside the famous pugilist of a bygone day." Before he knocked out Chuck Hefner (unkayoed in 76 previous bouts) in 1935, the papers breathlessly reported that Actis would wear into the ring the same boxing tights worn by Ketchel when the middleweight champion knocked out Leo Kelly in 1908 in San Francisco. According to the story, the tights were given to him by "an old pal of Ketchel's who hopes that the Excelsior district middleweight will carry through with them just as did the great Ketchel of the 20-round days."

"That's bull," confesses Actis. "They were made by some woman."

For all the havoc his left hook was creating, Actis was actually a big underdog in his breakthrough fight 61 years ago. His opponent at Frisco's famous Dreamland arena was Johnny Miler, who, since representing the USA in the 1932 Olympics, had earned his own reputation as one of the hardest-punching light heavyweights. As an amateur, Miler had knocked down Joe Louis seven times over the course of one decision victory. In 33 pro bouts, he had never been kayoed, and no less than heavyweight champion Max Baer declared of the Des Moines native, "Johnny Miler is a great fighter." Baer and Miler sparred frequently. "Miler used to give Baer hell every day in the gym," says Actis, who saw them work out.

Actis proved himself an ambidextrous puncher that night—out of necessity. He broke his left hand in the second round, and knocked Miler out with his right in the sixth.

Afterward, one reporter wrote, "Actis would knock out a heavyweight, if he got a good shot at the heavyweight's jaw." A natural 163-pounder, Actis became a light heavyweight only because few middleweights wanted anything to do with him. In the gym, he had to wear specially made 22-ounce gloves in order to lure sparring partners into the ring. Former welterweight and middleweight champion Lou Brouillard came to San Francisco with manager Johnny Buckley to look into the possibility of an Actis fight, but left in a hurry after Actis and his manager, Lew Powell, started agreeing to the exorbitant weight and purse demands.

"I have only the greatest admiration for Mr. Buckley," snickered local columnist Prescott Sullivan. "If I had a fighter like Brouillard in my care, I wouldn't want him to be anything but friendly with a guy like Actis either."

They called Milford "Swede" Berglund "The San Diego Iron Man" because in about 150 bouts, he had never touched the canvas with anything but his feet. Berglund had beaten former 160-pound champions Ben Jeby and Babe Risko, and for two rounds it looked like he would add Actis to the list when they met at Dreamland.

"Then," reported Eddie Muller, "out of clear sky in the third, Actis hooked with his terrific left that landed flush on the Swede's chin and brought the howling crowd to its feet. The fight ended after two minutes and 54 seconds of the third round. The Swede's seconds were forced to work on him for fully five minutes before bringing him around."

Frank Rowsey had not lost a fight in Los Angeles in two years, except for a couple of close decision defeats to light heavyweight champion Maxie Rosenbloom. Originally from Montana, they called Rowsey the "Powder River Kid," and made him the 10-8 favorite to play Jack Johnson to Actis' Ketchel when they fought at the Hollywood Legion Stadium. But 13 seconds from the end of round three, the Kid took a powder after one newspaper clip called "the deadliest punching ever witnessed at Hollywood."

Nineteen thirty-two Olympic middleweight champion Carmen Barth, a clever boxer with only one loss in 37 pro fights, avoided dreamland at Dreamland by running away from Actis for 10 rounds. But he was dropped twice and lost the decision.

Like most deadly punchers, Actis had two arch-nemeses. One was hands that couldn't stand up to the wallops he administered, and the other was fighters who knew better than to try. Skillful boxers, admits Actis with a touch of ruefulness, "gave me hell. If I couldn't get down underneath 'em, I couldn't do nothing with 'em."

Barth outpointed him in a rematch in Hollywood, and against clever Young Stuhley, Actis lost two decisions and fought a

draw. Stuhley had defeated 160-pound champion Vince Dundee, Brouillard's conqueror, in a non-title match before meeting Actis the first time, and Actis rates the Chicagoan above even Billy Conn on boxing ability.

"If you caught him," says Actis, "he'd go Ring-Around-The-Rosy with you until he come to." Actis caught him in the third round of their first fight in San Francisco, knocking the visitor down with a left hook to the body. But Stuhley made it up in nine seconds, which awed the judges so much that they gave him a draw in a fight every ringside reporter scored lopsidedly for Actis.

In a rematch, Stuhley survived two knockdowns to win the decision, and repeated the feat in a third fight. "I knocked him down a lot, but I couldn't keep him down," recalls Actis.

In August 1936, Actis and a 21-year-old middleweight from New Jersey who had lost just one of 65 amateur bouts, and only one of 26 pro fights, got together at the Hollywood Legion Stadium. In his account the next day, reporter Chuck Weinstock wrote, "And believe you me, and the other 4,500 thrilled fans, it was one of the greatest, if not the best fight ever staged in the Cinema City Stadium. It was a rip-roaring, 60-blows-a-second battle from the opening gong to the final bell that found both boys bleeding from the ears, eyes, mouth, and chin. Those lads didn't stop throwing them once during the evening, and referee Abe Roth didn't have a single thing to do but wipe blood off his shirt."

"He was a good boy," says Actis of Gus Lesnevich, his opponent that night who won the decision and would go on to take the world 175-pound title five years later. "He poured punches from the minute that bell rang until the end. I didn't know he was beating me that bad until my manager told me at the end of the ninth round. I went out in the 10th and gave it everything I had."

"Actis came out in the 10th to win by a kayo, and it looked for a while like he would," reported Weinstock. "He cut the Russian's right ear open and tore after him like a wildcat to win the round, and his only one, by a big margin."

The Billy Conn fight happened at the Civic Auditorium in San Francisco in September 1938. Eddie Muller called it a "blistering swatfest" that "kept [the] customers in an uproar." The man who would win the light heavyweight title a year later stopped Actis in the eighth round, but Actis left that indelible memory with Conn and boosted himself to the top of Conn's all-time hit parade in the third round, when one of those short left hooks put the future heavyweight title challenger down hard.

"It looked like it was all over," wrote Muller. "Actis rushed in to finish the Pittsburgher. Much to his surprise, Conn fought him tooth and nail, trading punch for punch until the bell broke up the stirring rally."

After the fight, recalls Actis, Conn said to him, "Geez, what did you hit me with?"

"I hit you with a left hook," Actis told him, "but I didn't hit you hard."

Conn begged to differ, telling reporters, "I'll never forget this fight. I was never hit so hard in all my life, and I don't expect to get socked as hard again. I thought the roof caved in on me."

It was the 27-year-old Actis' 50th, and last, fight. For the next 30 years, he drove a truck for a living. "My wife had one baby already, and was gonna have another, and I thought, *Geez, I better do something that will get a living wage,*" says Actis, whose top purse was $1,600. "I was only fighting every six months because of my hands, and I knew I wasn't doing myself any good that way."

Of the 39 men beaten by Actis, 33 didn't hear the final bell. Nineteen of those went in the first round, six in the second, and three in the third.

"I knew my hands were going to hold me back," he sighs.

Holding him back a little bit now is a blood condition that requires Actis to have transfusions every few weeks. Consequently, he doesn't get around as much as he'd like. And, of course, arthritis has made itself at home in his battered mitts.

But, still married [since 1936] to his childhood sweetheart, Yolanda, and now the great-grandfather of four, the unfailingly good-natured Italian Ketchel, whose complete transformation in the ring moved one scribe to say that next to him, "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde was just an amateur who dabbled in makeup," doesn't complain about or bemoan anything, except just fleetingly in assessing the fighters who occupy today's ratings. Not surprisingly, he mostly dismisses them with the immemorial puncher's lament:

"Too fancy." ■

Pete Ehrmann, a frequent contributor to The Ring, is based in West Allis, Wisconsin.

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TYSON/RUDDOCK I or II.....$65 ea.
TYSON/BRUNO II.....$35
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FISKE ON FIGHTS

By Jack Fiske

Like most, it was a Dickensian year in boxing. (You know, the best of times, the worst of times.) And even more than usual, it was an epoch of incredulity, with plenty of good, bad, and ugly.

For starters, we give thanks to Evander Holyfield, who brought light to boxing at a particularly dark time. Holyfield was the personification of goodness. Emulating St. George, "The Real Deal" rid the ring of the evil, fire-spitting dragon (Mike Tyson). And in doing so, he revived the flagging spirit of the public—fans and non-fans alike. Holyfield proved that goodness can still triumph over meanness, that talking the talk is not necessarily consistent with walking the walk. Boxing owes him a great debt.

While goodness was in short supply, there were moments of heroic accomplishment. Gigantic upsets, come-from-behind triumphs, tales of rags-to-riches, unknowns reaching star status, and the marathon careers of one-time stellar performers kept the public interested enough so that fans paid at the ticket window, turned on the tube, or ordered pay-per-view.

In the come-from-behind category, victories by Arturo Gatti, Kevin Kelley, and Vinny Pazienza matched those of any other year. And regarding surprises, 6-1 underdog Holyfield's stoppage of Tyson was followed a week later by 8-1 underdog Junior Jones' astonishing upset of previously undefeated Marco Antonio Barrera. If that wasn't enough, Virgil Hill went to Germany and outpointed another unbeaten fighter, Henry Maske. November was indeed a month to remember.

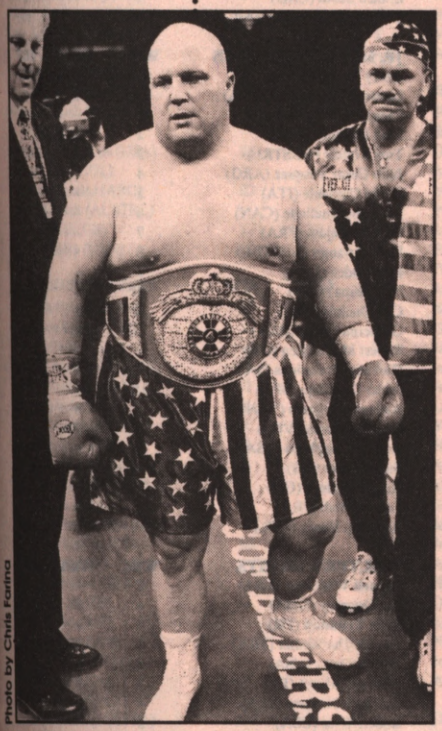


Photo by Chris Farina

The Bean's a beltholder, too (sigh)

There was goodness, and there was also good. Good was the resurrections of heavyweights Tim Witherspoon and Ray Mercer, both prematurely relegated to the scrap heap, but still possessing ability, durability, and character.

Doesn't Roy Jones qualify as good? The multititled and multitalented Jones so far outshines his opponents that he carries them in order to provide his audience a bit of a show. And look out for Montell Griffin, unheralded and undefeated. That the Chicagoan has twice silenced trash-talking James Toney is enough to count him among the good.

How *bad* was 1996? The year saw Bruce Seldon and Frank Bruno earning seven-figure purses without throwing a significant punch. There was Julio Cesar Chavez, damaged goods for sure, excusing his loss to Oscar De La Hoya, and then incessantly whining when he didn't immediately secure an undeserved rematch.

We saw HIV positive Tommy Morrison taking an ill-advised bout in Japan, contending his comeback would be "one fight only" for charity, and then saying he would continue fighting. We saw millionaire Larry Holmes in his "farewell fight" on television, and then, months later, signing to face Brian Nielsen in Denmark. And we saw the New York State Athletic Commission failing to reach a decision regarding the strange retirement of Bobby Czyz during his Madison Square Garden bout vs. Holyfield.

More bad was Butterbean and Christy Martin cutting in on the publicity that should have been awarded legitimate boxers, not freaks of limited talent. Bad was gutter-talking Rory Holloway and John Horne, so-called co-managers of Tyson, who is no paragon of etiquette himself. Bad was Donny Lalonde and Sugar Ray Leonard joining the retread crowd and reuniting with Roberto Duran and Hector Camacho.

Ugly, ugly, ugly was Andrew Golota in each of his foul-filled performances vs. Riddick Bowe. So ugly that after their first fight, Madison Square Garden erupted into a full-fledged riot that threatened the future of boxing at the famed arena. The rematch in Atlantic City was no less foul-free, but the crowd thankfully took the disqualification ending sitting down. Crowd control and security measures were strictly tended to, and if it took the MSG uprising to teach a lesson to promoters and law enforcement officials, that mini-riot in July may have been well worth it.

In other words, in 1996, like every other year, some good came out of the bad. ■

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by THE RING are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBC ratings were compiled as of December 1996, the WBA ratings as of November 1996, and the IBF ratings as of October 1996.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Vacant	C	–	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	C	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	–	–	C
Lennox Lewis (GB)	1	8	6
Oliver McCall (USA)	2	1	2
Mike Tyson (USA)	3	2	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	4	–	–
Zeljko Mavrovic (CROA)	5	10	12
Orlin Norris (USA)	6	4	5
Andrew Golota (POL)	7	9	7
Corrie Sanders (SA)	8	–	3
David Tua (NZ)	9	–	11
Tony Tucker (USA)	10	5	–
Francois Botha (SA)	–	3	1
Vaughn Bean (USA)	25	6	4
Bruce Seldon (USA)	–	7	–
Buster Mathis Jr. (USA)	–	–	8
Obed Sullivan (USA)	19	–	9
Tim Witherspoon (USA)	15	–	10

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	C	–	–
Nate Miller (USA)	–	C	–
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	–	C
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	1	1	4
Akim Tafer (FRA)	2	5	–
Torsten May (GER)	3	9	7
Robert Daniels (USA)	4	3	–
Terry Dunstan (GB)	5	7	9
David Izeqwire (NIG)	6	12	8
Jacob Mofokeng (SA)	7	–	3
Chris Okoh (GB)	8	–	10
Carl Thompson (GB)	9	–	–
Yosukezan Nishijima (JAP)	10	–	–
Ezequiel Paixao (BRA)	–	2	–
Saul Montana (DR)	16	4	12
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	11	6	–
Rick Lamontagne (USA)	–	8	–
Arimetea Silva (BRA)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Arthur Williams (USA)	–	–	5
Uriah Grant (USA)	28	–	6

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	C	–	–
Roy Jones (USA)	IC	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
William Guthrie (USA)	1	2	1
Michael Nunn (USA)	2	6	–
Mike McCallum (USA)	3	–	4
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	4	1	9
Crawford Ashley (GB)	5	–	6
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	6	–	8
Montell Griffin (USA)	7	3	2
Merqui Sosa (DR)	8	11	–
Muhammad Siluvangi (ZAI)	9	–	–
Nicky Piper (GB)	10	–	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	30	4	5
Leif Keiski (SWE)	–	5	–
Joseph Kiwanuka (UGA)	–	7	–
Antoine Byrd (USA)	–	8	–
Darrin Allen (USA)	27	9	3
Dario Matteoni (ARG)	22	10	–
Stephan Anghern (SWI)	–	–	7
Ray Berry (USA)	29	–	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Robin Reid (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Henry Wharton (GB)	1	2	5
Thulane Malinga (SA)	2	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	3	–	–
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	4	–	8
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	5	6	11
Frederic Seillier (FRA)	6	1	9
Joe Calzaghe (GB)	7	10	7
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	8	7	–
Chris Omar Johnson (USA)	9	–	–
Joseph Kiwanuka (UGA)	10	–	–
Gary Ballard (SA)	12	3	3
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	15	4	10
Tim Littles (USA)	–	5	–
Charles Brewer (USA)	17	8	2
Mike Makata (NZ)	–	9	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	–	–	4
Bryant Brannon (USA)	–	–	6

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Holmes (USA)	C	–	–
William Joppy (USA)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Otis Grant (CAN)	1	3	11
Quincy Taylor (USA)	2	–	–
Julian Jackson (USA)	3	–	–
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	4	11	4
Robert McCracken (GB)	5	–	2
Richie Woodhall (GB)	6	–	–
Giovanni Pretorius (SA)	7	–	–
Neville Brown (GB)	8	–	–
John David Jackson (USA)	9	–	1
Peter Venancio (BRA)	10	1	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	–	2	5
Glen Johnson (USA)	–	4	7
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	–	5	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	6	–
Anthony Andrews (GUY)	21	7	–
Anthony Stephens (USA)	–	8	–
Julian Jackson (VI)	–	9	–
Brian Barbosa (USA)	12	10	6
Lloyd Bryan (USA)	–	–	3
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	–	–	8
Branco Sabot (CRO)	–	–	9
Yoshinari Nishizawa (JAP)	–	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	C
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	–	C	–
Faouzi Hattab (FRA)	1	–	–
Raul Marquez (USA)	2	10	1
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	3	–	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	4	5	–
David Ciarlante (ITA)	5	–	–
Stephane Ouellette (CAN)	6	–	–
Said Bennajem (FRA)	7	–	–
Ernie Artango (AUSTRL)	8	–	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	9	–	–
Nick Rupa (USA)	10	7	10
Carl Daniels (USA)	12	1	2
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	17	2	5
Robert McCracken (GB)	–	3	–
Giovanni Pretorious (SA)	–	4	3
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	15	6	–
Alejandro Ugueto (VEN)	–	8	–
Engels Pedroza (VEN)	–	9	–
Anthony Stephens (USA)	16	–	4
Steve Foster (GB)	–	–	6
Adrian Dodson (GB)	22	–	7
Fauzi Hattab (FRA)	–	–	8
Rossman Henry (COL)	–	–	9

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Patrick Charpentier (FRA)	1	2	1
Derrell Coley (USA)	2	4	8
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	3	7	11
Jose Luis Navarro (SPA)	4	–	–
Robert West (USA)	5	–	–
Andrei Pestryaev (RUS)	6	1	–
Ariel Chaves (ARG)	7	–	–
Ralph Jones (USA)	8	10	–
Hiroyuki Yoshino (JAP)	9	–	–
Diobelys Hurtado (CUBA)	10	–	–
Sean Sullivan (NZ)	–	3	–
Oba Carr (USA)	–	5	10
Andrew Murray (GUY)	26	6	7
Juan Negron (PR)	–	8	9
Jeff Malcolm (AUSTRL)	–	9	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	2
Hitonon Sato (JAP)	–	–	3
Tony Martin (USA)	22	11	4
Mahenge Zulu (ZAI)	–	–	5
Hugo Pineda (COL)	–	–	6

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	C	–	–
Frankie Randall (USA)	–	C	–

Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	–	–	C
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	1	–	–
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	2	2	–
Ismael Chaves (ARG)	3	–	–
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	4	1	–
Rafael Ruelas (MEX)	5	–	8
Charles Murray (USA)	6	7	7
Soren Sondergaard (DEN)	7	9	3
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	8	6	2
Juan Coggi (ARG)	9	5	–
Jong Hoon Yuh (KOR)	10	–	–
Jose Barbosa (VEN)	13	3	–
Freddie Ladd (USA)	11	4	–
Viacheslav Yanovsky (KAZ)	–	8	–
David Kamau (USA)	16	10	–
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	–	–	1
Jan Bergman (SA)	–	–	4
Jermal Corbin (USA)	–	–	5
Virgil McClendon (USA)	–	12	6
Leonardo Mas (PR)	26	–	9
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	12	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	C	–	–
Orzubek Nazarov (JAP)	–	C	–
Philip Holiday (SA)	–	–	C
Steve Johnston (USA)	1	5	6
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	2	–	–
Angel Mona (FRA)	3	2	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	4	6	12
Ricardo Silva (ARG)	5	–	–
Leavander Johnson (USA)	6	–	–
Billy Irwin (CAN)	7	–	–
Alberto Sicurella (ARG)	8	7	–
Manuel Fernandez (FRA)	9	–	–
Jong Kwon Baek (KOR)	10	–	–
Leavander Johnson (USA)	–	1	10
Ivan Robinson (USA)	–	3	1
Carlos Fernandez (PORT)	–	4	–
Adrianus Taroreh (INDO)	–	8	–
David Dodi Tetteh (GHA)	21	9	–
Samir Cherrad (FRA)	20	10	–
Fred Ladd (USA)	–	–	2
Demetrius Ceballos (USA)	28	–	3
Miguel Julio (COL)	–	–	4
Eduardo Morales (ARG)	22	12	5
Justin Rowsell (AUSTRL)	–	–	7
Billy Schwer (GB)	17	11	8
Shane Mosley (USA)	12	–	9

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	–	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	–	C	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	–	C
Anatoly Alexandrov (RUS)	1	2	4
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	2	–	–
Robert Garcia (USA)	3	6	2
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	4	–	–
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	5	5	–
Ulrich Johnson (TRIN)	6	–	11
P.J. Gallagher (GB)	7	–	12
Djamel Lifa (FRA)	8	8	7
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	9	–	10
Douglas Villarreal (COL)	10	7	–
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	1	–
Gilbert Serrano (VEN)	–	3	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	4	–
Koji Arisawa (JAP)	–	9	–
Orlando Soto (PAN)	–	10	–
Tracy Patterson (USA)	–	–	1
John Brown (USA)	–	–	3
Jaime Rangel (COL)	–	–	5
Cliff Samardin (AUSTRL)	–	–	6
Boris Sinitsin (RUS)	15	–	8
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	–	–	9

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vazquez (PR)	–	C	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Carlos Rios (ARG)	1	2	10
Cesar Soto (MEX)	2	–	–
Billy Hardy (GB)	3	6	4
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	4	1	11
Jesus Chavez (USA)	5	–	–
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	6	–	–
Ever Beleno (COL)	7	8	7
Mehdi Labdouni (FRA)	8	–	–
Frederic Perez (FRA)	9	–	–
Koji Matsumoto (JAP)	10	–	–
Victor Polo (COL)	25	3	–
Rafael Meran (DR)	–	4	–
Tony Wehbe (INDO)	–	5	–
Roque Cassiani (COL)	–	7	–
Angel Vasquez (PR)	–	9	–
Victor Llerena (COL)	21	10	–
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	–	–	1
Welcome Ncita (SA)	–	–	2
David Santos (USA)	17	–	3
Jose Badillo (PR)	–	–	5
November Ntshingila (AUSTRL)	13	–	6
Victor Polo (COL)	–	–	8
Arnulfo Castillo (USA)	–	–	9

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	C	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Erik Morales (MEX)	1	3	–
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	2	–	–
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	3	–	–
Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)	4	–	–
Salim Medjkoune (FRA)	5	5	4
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	6	6	–
Harold Mestre (COL)	7	–	–
Enrique Jupiter (MEX)	8	–	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	9	–	10
Reynante Jamili (PHIL)	10	–	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	–	1	8
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	2	–
Yober Ortega (VEN)	–	4	–
Mike Garcia (USA)	–	7	–
Serge Poilbian (FRA)	20	8	–
Bong Chul Kim (KOR)	15	9	–
Bugiarso (INDO)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	22	–	3
Jesus Perez (COL)	–	–	5
Rey Jamil (PHIL)	–	–	6
Victor Llerena (COL)	–	–	7
Aristead Clayton (USA)	–	–	9

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	C	–	–
Sirimongkol Singmanasuk (THAI)	IC	–	–
Daorung C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	C	–
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	C
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	1	–	–
Pastor Maurin (ARG)	2	8	–
In Jin Chi (KOR)	3	–	12
Paul Ayala (USA)	4	6	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	5	–	8
Jorge Monsalvo (COL)	6	–	–
Shaszi Nitta (JAP)	7	–	–
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	8	12	–
Javier Campanario (SPA)	9	–	–
Jesus Sarabia (MEX)	10	–	–
Abraham Torres (VEN)	–	1	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	2	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	3	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	4	–
Angel Chacon (PR)	–	5	–
Tim Austin (USA)	15	7	1
Setsuo Kawamasu (JAP)	14	9	–
John Michael Johnson (USA)	–	10	–
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	2
Adrian Kaspari (INDO)	24	–	3
Harold Mestre (COL)	–	–	4
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	–	–	5
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	–	6
Narciso Rodriguez (USA)	–	–	7
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	–	–	9
Ancee Gedeon (USA)	–	–	10

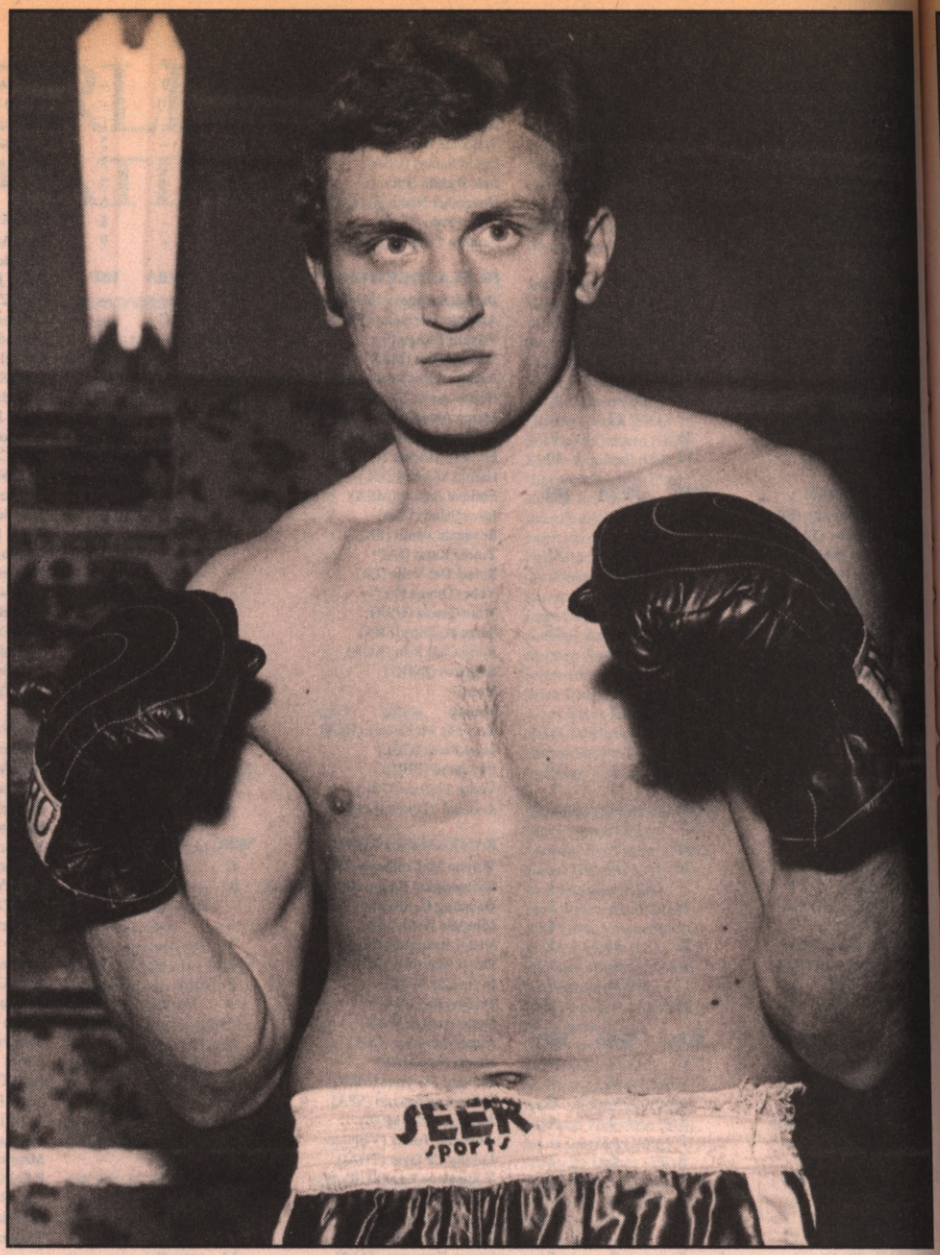
JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	C	–	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	C	–
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	C
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	1	5	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	2	7	–
Luis Bolanos (COL)	3	8	–
Jose Rafael Sosa (ARG)	4	–	–
Luis Benavides (COL)	5	11	10
Veeraphol Sahaprom (THAI)	6	3	–
Kazuhisa Machida (JAP)	7	–	–
Evangelio Perez (PAN)	8	–	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	9	–	–
Jorge Barrera (MEX)	10	–	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	–	1	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	–	2	–
Alimi Goitia (VEN)	–	4	–
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	6	–
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	–	9	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	25	10	8
Jaji Sibali (SA)	11	–	1
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	2
Andy Agosto (PR)	14	12	3
Harold Grey (COL)	–	–	4
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	22	–	5
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	6
Ricky Matulessi (INDO)	–	–	7
Polo Saucedo (USA)	–	–	9

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	22	C	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	1	4	9
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	2	–	1
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	3	11	10
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	4	–	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	5	5	–
Chokchai Chokviwat (THAI)	6	–	–
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	7	8	4
Salvatore Fanni (ITA)	8	–	–
Peter Culshaw (GB)	9	3	–
Paul Weir (GB)	10	–	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	1	2
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	2	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	20	6	–
Takashi Ohba (JAP)	27	7	–
Phanieng Adradeet Gym (THAI)	–	9	–
Leo Gamez (VEN)	26	10	–
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	–	3
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	5
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	6
Will Grigsby (USA)	–	–	7
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	8

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	C	–	–
Keiji Yamaguchi (JAP)	–	C	–
Michael Carbajal (USA)	–	–	C
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	1	2	3
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	2	–	–
Yosam Choi (KOR)	3	9	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	4	–	–
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	5	–	10
Kaaj Chartbandi (THAI)	6	–	–
Phanieng Sasiprabha (THAI)	7	–	–
Micky Cantwell (GB)	8	–	–
Ramon Euroza (MEX)	9	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	10	11	–
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat (THAI)	12	1	5
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	–	3	–
Sinn Ploenchit (THAI)	–	4	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	5	6
Jesus Chong (MEX)	–	6	9
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	16	7	–
Suzuki Kabato (JAP)	–	8	–
Mzukuzi Marali (SA)	30	10	–
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	18	–	1
P.S. Wonjongkam (THAI)	–	–	2
Anis Roga (INDO)	–	–	4
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	7
Takashi Shiohama (JAP)	–	–	8

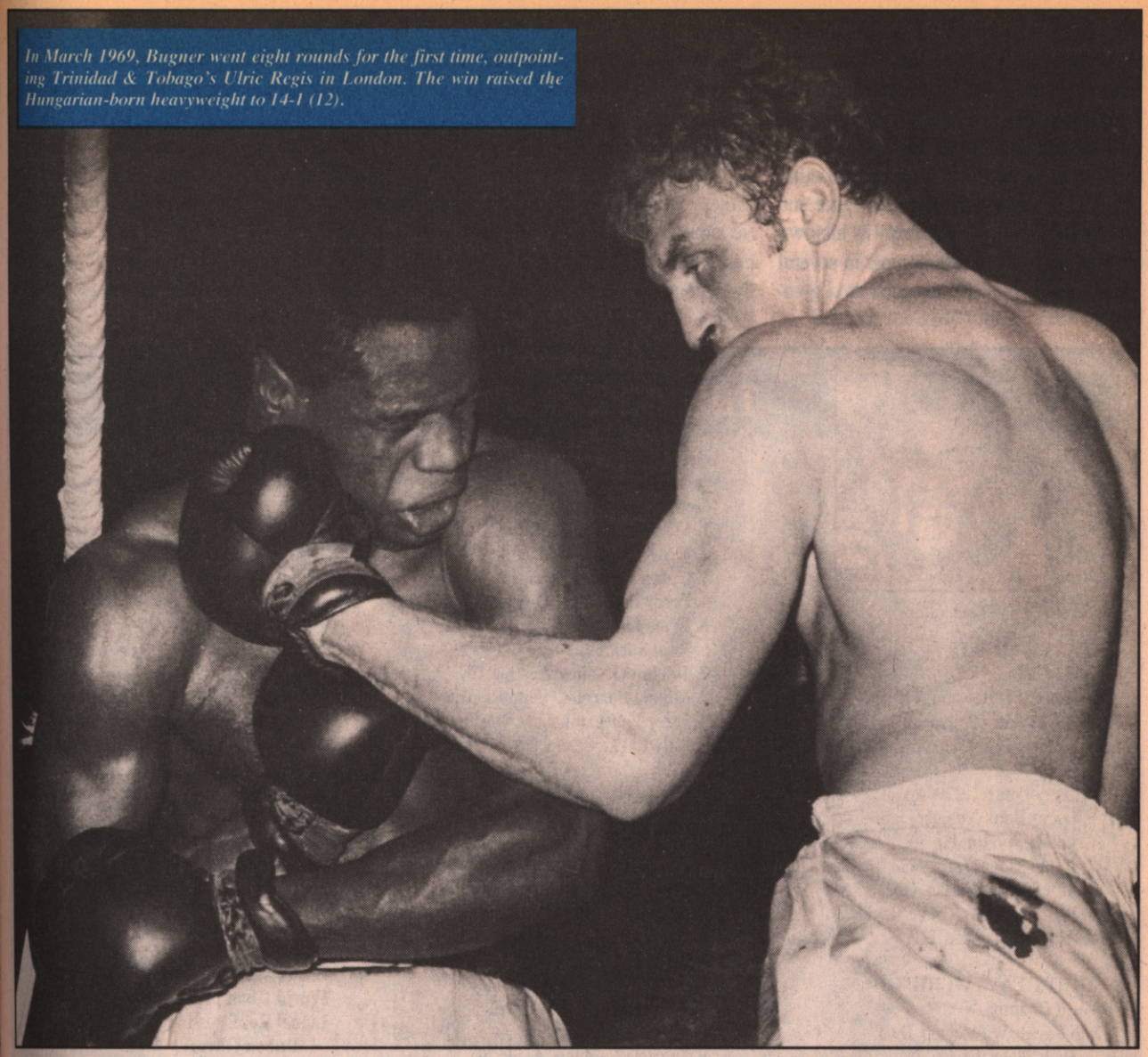
STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Voraphin (THAI)	–	–	C
Rocky Lin (JAP)	1	2	–
Sinn Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	2	–	–
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	3	8	–
Hyung Sok Kang (KOR)	4	–	–
Myung Sup Park (KOR)	5	–	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	6	5	2
Morgan Ndumo (SA)	7	–	9
Payak Nakornluang (THAI)	8	–	–
Lindi Memani (SA)	9	–	–
Ray Villamor (PHIL)	10	–	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	–	1	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	3	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	4	–
Sung Tae Lim (KOR)	–	6	–
Kwanjai Battery (THAI)	–	7	–
Fah Sung Ponasawang (THAI)	–	9	–
Pongsaklek Sithanonsak (THAI)	–	10	–
Juan Herrera (COL)	15	–	1
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	–	–	3
Mongol Charoen (THAI)	–	–	4
Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)	26	–	5
Wondee Charoen (THAI)	–	–	6
Luis Doria (COL)	–	–	7
Gustavo Vera (VEN)	–	–	8
Lee Sandoval (NIC)	19	–	10

CLASSIC



BUGNER, 19, BORN IN HUNGARY, BRITAIN'S NEW HEAVY HOPE

From The Ring, October 1969



In March 1969, Bugner went eight rounds for the first time, outpointing Trinidad & Tobago's Ulric Regis in London. The win raised the Hungarian-born heavyweight to 14-1 (12).

By Frank Butler

London, England—The British lose Empires, but not hope! Seventy-two years ago, a medium-built balding man named Bob Fitzsimmons knocked out Jim Corbett in Carson City, Nevada, to become the world heavyweight champion.

The Union Jack fluttered proudly over the British Isles because the freckle-faced guy who stood under six-feet and scaled only 167 pounds had been born 35 years earlier in Helston, Cornwall, in the southwest corner of England.

The fact that Fitzsimmons had been taken by his parents, when only a boy of nine, to New Zealand before moving to Australia, and later to the Pacific Coast of America, didn't matter. He was born in England, and every Englishman is still proud of it.

Old Bob held the title for two years before Jim Jeffries took over as heavyweight king. For 70 years, the British have been hoping for another Fitzsimmons. And what frustrating years they have been, as their heavyweight idols, like Phil Scott, Tommy Farr, Don Cockell, Brian London, and Henry Cooper, have all failed in world title bids.

The British still are undaunted, still hoping. It's ironic that their optimism is entrusted to a 19-year-old lad standing 6'3½" and weighing 220 pounds who wasn't even born in Britain!

His name is Joe Bugner. Unlike Fitzsimmons, who was evacuated from England as a boy, Bugner arrived in England as a seven-year-old gawky kid with his widowed mother—refugees from Russian troops who had invaded Budapest in the bloodbath that crushed Hungary's uprising for freedom in 1956.

This handsome, young blond giant with the ice-blue eyes has won 18 of his 19 professional fights, 12 inside the distance. Recovering from a disastrous professional debut, in which he was knocked out, he is to be launched in the fall as the latest British heavyweight hope.

He can already pack in the crowds, and for one so young has a know-how of a much more mature fighter. He can box and has a powerful left jab and a fair left hook. He still has much to learn, and has yet to prove he can stand up to a punch of big-league class.

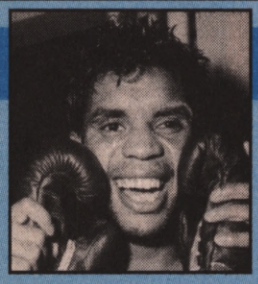
Bugner was born in Szeged, a town near Budapest, on March 13, 1950. His father died while Joe was still a toddler. Before the Hungarian rising was crushed,

his mother fled the country with her son and arrived in England a few weeks later. She settled in Bedford, a small town with a 67,000 population, 50 miles from London.

Joe went to a local school and began to make a name for himself among the other kids in track and field. He was bigger and stronger than any of the boys in his own class. Bigger, in fact, than most in several grades above him. He excelled as a gymnast and discus thrower, and went on to win the National Association of Boys Clubs discus championship, setting an All-England schools record with a throw of 182 feet.

He had become a physical culturist, and fitness is a bug with him. After training sessions, he finishes with upstarts or standing backward somersaults. He is amazingly light on his feet for one so big.

Bugner didn't take up boxing until he was 13. He sat with his mother in their small Bedford home in 1963, watching a European championship fight on television. The attraction was that the defending champion was Laszlo Papp, the famous Hungarian who was three-time Olympic champion, and the only boxer the Communists allowed to fight for a professional title. Papp stopped the British mid-



Lionel Rose

THE RING RATINGS, *October 1969*

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ:
Cassius Clay, Houston, TX
1. **Joe Frazier**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Jimmy Ellis**, Louisville, KY
3. **Sonny Liston**, Las Vegas, NV
4. **Jerry Quarry**, Los Angeles, CA
5. **Oscar Bonavena**, Argentina
6. **Leotis Martin**, Philadelphia, PA
7. **Henry Cooper**, England
8. **Mac Foster**, Fresno, CA
9. **Buster Mathis**, Grand Rapids, MI
10. **Al Jones**, Perrine, FL

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ:
Bob Foster, Washington, D.C.
1. **Dick Tiger**, Biafra
2. **Mark Tessman**, Houston, TX
3. **Ray Anderson**, Akron, OH
4. **Yvan Prebeg**, Yugoslavia
5. **Jimmy Dupree**, Jersey City, NJ
6. **Bob Dunlop**, Australia
7. **Eddie Avoth**, Wales
8. **Hal Carroll**, Syracuse, NY
9. **Andy Kendall**, Portland, OR
10. **Gregorio Peralta**, Argentina

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ:
Nino Benvenuti, Italy
1. **Luis Rodriguez**, Miami Beach, FL
2. **Freddie Little**, Las Vegas, NV
3. **Emile Griffith**, New York, NY
4. **Juan Carlos Duran**, Italy
5. **Don Fullmer**, West Jordan, UT
6. **Denny Moyer**, Portland, OR
7. **Fraser Scott**, Seattle, WA
8. **Stan Hayward**, Philadelphia, PA
9. **Tom Bogs**, Denmark
10. **Doyle Baird**, Akron, OH

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ:
Jose Napoles, Mexico
1. **Manuel Gonzalez**, Odessa, TX
2. **Hedgemon Lewis**, Detroit, MI
3. **Curtis Cokes**, Dallas, TX
4. **Percy Pugh**, New Orleans, LA
5. **Ernie Lopez**, Las Vegas, NV
6. **Raul Soriano**, Mexico
7. **Johann Orsolics**, Austria
8. **Miguel Barreto**, Puerto Rico
9. **Jerry Pellegrini**, New Orleans, LA
10. **Billy Backus**, Syracuse, NY

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ:
Nicolino Locche, Argentina
1. **Bruno Arcari**, Italy
2. **Joao Henrique**, Brazil
3. **Adolph Pruitt**, St. Louis, MO
4. **German Gastelbondo**, Colombia
5. **Turk Kamaci**, Austria
6. **Eddie Perkins**, Chicago, IL
7. **Eugenio Espinoza**, Ecuador
8. **Barrera Corpas**, Spain
9. **Horacio Saldano**, Argentina
10. **Pedro Adigue**, Philippines

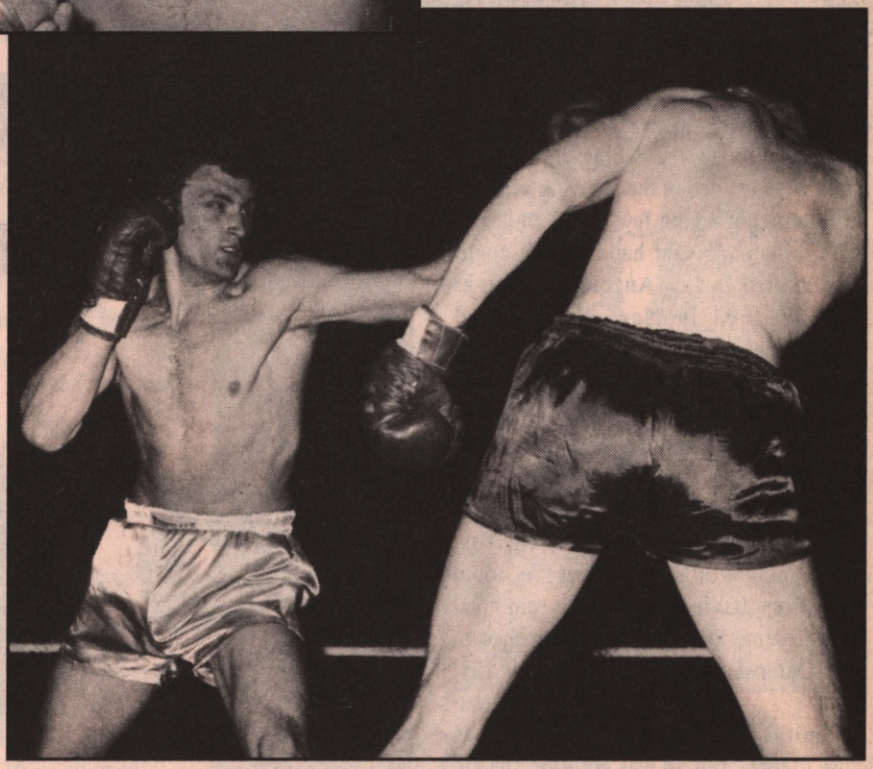
LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ:
Mando Ramos, Long Beach, CA
1. **Ismael Laguna**, Panama
2. **Pedro Carrasco**, Spain
3. **Ken Buchanan**, Scotland
4. **Jaguar Kazikawa**, Japan
5. **Arturo Lomeli**, Mexico
6. **Carlos (Teo) Cruz**, Dominican Republic
7. **Carlos Hernandez**, Venezuela
8. **Frankie Narvaez**, Puerto Rico
9. **Carlos Aro**, Argentina
10. **Chango Carmona**, Mexico

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ:
Hiroshi Kobayashi, Japan
1. **Yoshiaki Numata**, Japan
2. **Alton Colter**, Phoenix, AZ
3. **Rene Barrientos**, Philippines
4. **Ruben Navarro**, Los Angeles, CA
5. **Antonio Amaya**, Panama
6. **Ricardo Lescano**, Argentina
7. **Carlos Canete**, Argentina
8. **Alfredo Marcano**, Venezuela
9. **Godfrey Stevens**, Chile
10. **Silvero Ortiz**, Mexico

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ:
Johnny Famechon, Australia
1. **Shozo Saijyo**, Japan
2. **Vicente Saldivar**, Mexico
3. **Dwight Hawkins**, Los Angeles, CA
4. **Cruz Marcano**, Venezuela
5. **Jose Legra**, Spain
6. **Fighting Harada**, Japan
7. **Felipe Torres**, Los Angeles, CA
8. **Jimmy Revie**, England
9. **Nobuo Chiba**, Japan
10. **Fernando Sotelo**, Mexico

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ:
Lionel Rose, Australia
1. **Ruben Olivares**, Mexico
2. **Chucho Castillo**, Mexico
3. **Alan Rudkin**, England
4. **Takao Sakurai**, Japan
5. **Salvatore Burruni**, Italy
6. **Rudy Alarcon**, Philippines
7. **Katsuyoshi Takayama**, Japan
8. **Kazuyoshi Kanazawa**, Japan
9. **Leo Calderon**, Mexico
10. **Julio Guerrero**, Mexico

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ:
Alacran Efren Torres, Mexico
1. **Hiroyuki Ebihara**, Japan
2. **Berkrerk Chartvanchai**, Thailand
3. **Raton Mojica**, Nicaragua
4. **Chartchai Chionoi**, Thailand
5. **Bernabe Villacampo**, Philippines
6. **Fermin Gomez**, Mexico
7. **Susumu Hanagata**, Japan
8. **Octavio Gomez**, Mexico
9. **Jose Severino**, Brazil
10. **Erbito Salavarria**, Philippines



Bugner greets Belgium's Lion Venn (above) before their scheduled eight-rounder in March 1969. The rising star proved too powerful for his adversary, taming the Lion in five rounds (right).

dleweight champion in 15 rounds in Vienna to retain the crown. Then and there, young Joe was determined to become a fighter.

Because of his size, though he was a junior, he sometimes found himself boxing seniors among the amateurs. As an unpaid performer, he had 14 bouts, losing three—once to experienced Billy Wells in the quarterfinals of the National Championships. Twice he was stopped by a far more experienced lad named Cullen.

Bugner moved to the town of St. Ives in the county of Huntingdonshire, 70 miles from London, with a population of only 5,000, and not to be confused with the better-known St. Ives in Cornwall, not far from old Fitzsimmons' birthplace. Also living at St. Ives is Andy Smith, a canny 43-year-old Scot who once fought as a welterweight. Smith, though a businessman and a director of a haulage firm, was also a small-time fight manager and trainer. He looked after three local fighters, all brothers, Monty, Mick, and Winston Laud.

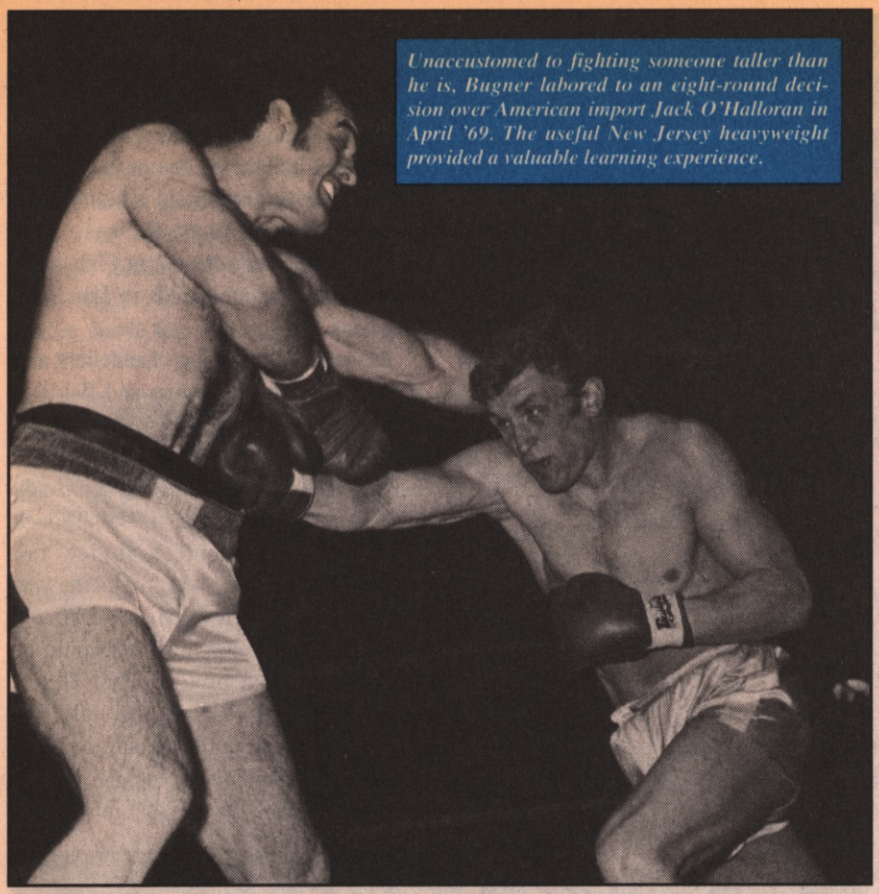
Smith, not a get-rich-quick merchant as far as boxing is concerned, saw in the lanky amateur a great prospect. He signed him up, but deliberately avoided publicity because he didn't want the "Golden Boy" tag that was given to Billy Walker, who earned more than $600,000 without ever winning a title, labeled on Joe Bugner. Smith still goes out of his way to prevent silly interviews and gimmicks.

Bugner was launched as a professional without any buildup on one of those club-nights that boxing in Britain is falling back on so much these days. He was a six-rounder at the Anglo-American Club at the Hilton Hotel, which stands in London's Park Lane.

Beneath the glittering chandeliers and amid the tuxedos, the soup and fish and champagne, big Bugner climbed into the ring against a guy named Paul Brown, a Jamaican now living in Birmingham. Andy Smith was anxious but confident. Though the kid was a complete novice and unknown to members and guests, he was being watched closely by Mickey Duff and Harry Levene, both hoping he would be the boy to boost boxing after Henry Cooper and Billy Walker, the only two guaranteed to sell out Wembley's 11,500 seats, had gone from the scene.

Bugner looked nervous, but impressive. Members put down their champagne glasses to see whether the young giant could fight. Apparently he could. He went to work on Brown in the first round with a powerful left jab and a left hook that had a little of the Henry Cooper look about it.

He dropped the Midlander a couple of



Unaccustomed to fighting someone taller than he is, Bugner labored to an eight-round decision over American import Jack O'Halloran in April '69. The useful New Jersey heavyweight provided a valuable learning experience.

times in the second round, and there were the usual appeals to the referee to stop it. In the third round, the wining-dining spectators were excited at the showing of a 17-year-old lad of whom few had even heard. Then, bingo! A right hand, which could have started in Los Angeles and might have finished in New York, found Bugner's chin.

He went down flat. He made a desperate attempt to get up, but his legs were jelly and he fell back, to be counted out. What a debut!

Andy Smith looked sick. The boy didn't know what had hit him. The first encouraging words in the dressing room came from Jarvis Astaire, who reminded him the same thing had once happened to Jack Dempsey. True, but not in his first fight!

Smith picked up the ruins. He was close to tears. But all was not lost. The kid asked for a return fight. So Smith patiently planned a comeback. A comeback for a kid of 17 who had had only one professional fight!

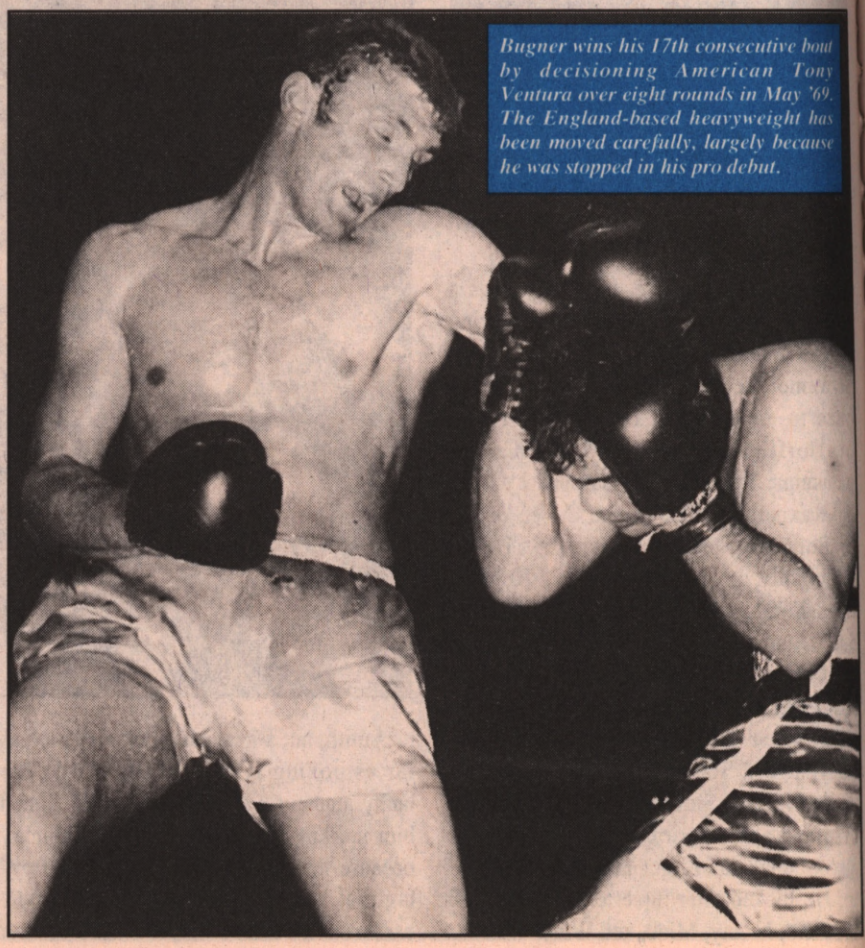
Bugner had been digging ditches around St. Ives. Smith put him to work on laying electrical cables and sent him back to the gym. Bugner boxed and boxed and boxed! He volunteered to spar with the best and worst who came to train.

He went back in the ring six weeks later against moderate opposition and began to mow them down. He has chalked up 18 consecutive wins. The important thing was that his disastrous debut had not sapped his confidence. In 1968, he beat all 11 opponents—10 inside the distance. Paul Brown, who had put the only blot on his record, was twice stopped, the first time in four rounds, the next in three.

In 1969, Bugner was launched against moderate American opposition. For one so young, he came out of his task well, beating Jack O'Halloran in April, Tony Ventura in May, and Moses Harrell in June. All three fights went the distance of eight rounds.

Andy Smith insisted he wanted it that way. "Joe had knocked out some of the weaker opposition," boasted Andy. "He learned more against three Americans than he did in his first dozen contests."

Despite winning all but one of 19 fights, Bugner gained more fame in May



Bugner wins his 17th consecutive bout by decisioning American Tony Ventura over eight rounds in May '69. The England-based heavyweight has been moved carefully, largely because he was stopped in his pro debut.

Manager Andy Smith believes Bugner is destined to join the elite of the heavyweight division. He has been guiding Bugner since the Hungarian was an amateur.

1968, in the gym, when he volunteered to spar with Thad Spencer, who had come to face Eduardo Corletti, the Italian-based heavyweight from Argentina. Spencer wore a heavy headguard, but Bugner's left got under it and snicked the Negro's eye, causing a postponement of the fight.

Bugner seems to have the right temperament. He came in as a last-minute substitute in March to face a big Jamaican named Ulric Regis at Shoreditch Town Hall in the City of London. After a close fight, which Bugner won on points, Ulric collapsed and died a few days later from a brain hemorrhage.

When Joe heard the news, he was heartbroken and retreated to his small house at St. Ives with his wife and six-month-old baby daughter Amy-Jane. He wouldn't speak to anybody. He recovered from the tragedy two days later and took Andy Smith's advice to get back into the gym.

"When a pilot crashes, he's got to get back into the air soon—or lose his nerve," advised the manager.

Joe got back into the gym—and then back into the ring. He didn't lose his nerve.

Within two weeks, he had battered Belgian champion Lion Venn in five rounds at Wembley. Then followed the conquest of the Americans O'Halloran, Ventura, and Harrell. The kid had come through a second crisis in his career.

Now he is resting till the fall. There are plans to launch him as the new British Golden Boy.

Though only 19, Bugner already has considerable know-how about the fight game. For one so young, he boxes well and jabs efficiently, but he should not be asked to do too much this year. It has yet to be proved whether he can take a big punch.

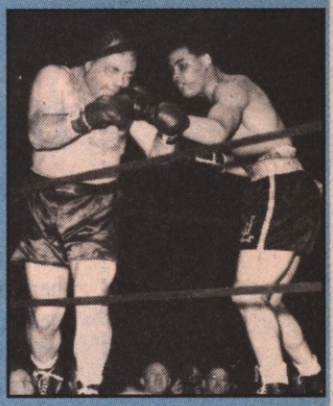
He was little more than a schoolboy when twice stopped as an amateur, and only 17 when Paul Brown put him down and out in his first pro fight. The encouraging thing is that he hasn't been on the floor since. The British are keeping their fingers crossed.

There's a wise saying in the fight game that hungry fighters make the best punchers. Britain hopes that Hungary fighters make the best! ■

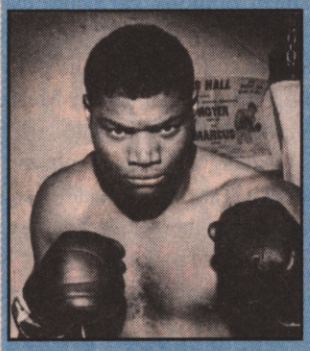
THE RING, October 1969

The Cover: The heavyweight matchup of the moment: Joe Frazier vs. Jimmy Ellis. While THE RING continues to list the inactive Muhammad Ali as world champion, Frazier and Ellis are both title claimants, with the former recognized by New York State and the latter by the WBA. A showdown is expected to be announced shortly.

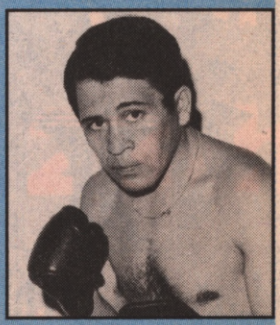
The Black Man And Boxing: Cartoonist-writer Ted Carroll, a longtime contributor to THE RING, begins a series on the contributions of blacks to boxing. The stories will range from one-time slave Tom Molineaux (pictured) to current stars Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier.



Two Tons Of Trouble: George Girsch looks back at Two-Ton Tony Galento's memorable 1939 challenge of world heavyweight champion Joe Louis. When Galento dropped "The Brown Bomber" in round three, the world stopped breathing. But Louis rebounded to take out the crude challenger one round later.



Heavyweight Of The Future: Is powerpunching Californian Mac Foster, 18-0 (18), the next great heavyweight? Foster, a former Marine who served two tours in Vietnam, drew international attention with his first-round demolition of Thad Spencer.



Fighter Of The Month: A fighter to watch is former world featherweight champion Vicente Saldivar, who returned after a two-year retirement with a 10-round victory over world-rated Spaniard Jose Legra. So impressive was Saldivar's win that he landed at number two in the 126-pound rankings.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Steve Farhood

CHAVEZ' NEW ROLE: ODD MAN OUT

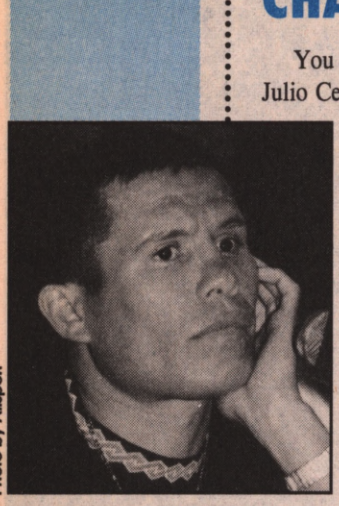


Photo by Allsport

Has Chavez blown a rematch with De La Hoya?

You can't always believe what you read, even in THE RING. Shortly after Oscar De La Hoya chopped up Julio Cesar Chavez last June, it was reported here (and everywhere else) that there would be a rematch. The first fight had ended because of an eye cut, and the Hispanic community wanted to see "The Golden Boy" and "J.C. Superstar" duke it out to a conclusive ending.

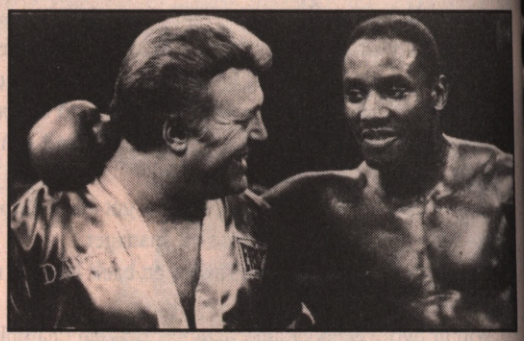
So why does De La Hoya have an April 26 date with WBC welterweight champion Pernell Whitaker?

Chavez began to alienate Top Rank (De La Hoya's promoter) by demanding an unrealistic $10-million for a rematch. Then, in December, he accepted a $500,000 advance before pulling out of a scheduled bout vs. Mickey Ward. Chavez claimed an injured right hand. Given the Mexican's plethora of personal problems, Top Rank's Bob Arum and HBO, which was to televise the bout, were skeptical. The end result: Chavez is now a free agent, and there are rumors he may return to promoter Don King.

"It's been our experience that Julio likes to test the market," said Top Rank Vice President Todd duBoef. "Then he comes to realize reality. Maybe in the spring he'll come to his senses."

Meanwhile, Whitaker-De La Hoya looms as the first superfight of the year. (As we went to press, both fighters were scheduled to make defenses, with WBC super lightweight champion De La Hoya vs. Miguel Angel Gonzalez and Whitaker vs. Diobelys Hurtado.) De La Hoya-Chavez II may happen later this year. Or it may not happen at all. And if that's the case, the only loser will be Chavez.

LISTEN UP



Wolf and Bradley during happier times

George Foreman refuses to go away. With **Mike Tyson** no longer Big George's opponent of choice, the former champ has refocused on fellow grandfather **Larry Holmes** ... Seems **Fabrice Tiozzo** is still the WBC light heavyweight champion. Word is he'll defend against undefeated **William Guthrie** ... America Presents has signed IBF middleweight champ **Bernard Hopkins**. Let's hope that'll result in more activity for "The Executioner" ... Where does **Andrew Golota** go from here? The best bet is a battle with **Tim Witherspoon** or **Ray Mercer** ... Don't look for **Vinny Pazienza** to lace 'em up anytime soon. Paz is making a couple of movies, and if he fights at all in 1997, it'll be during the second half of the year ... **Kostya Tszyu's** next defense will come against either **Charles Murray** or **Vince Phillips** ... Unbeaten middleweight **Lonnie Bradley** and manager **Dave Wolf** are on the outs. Bradley has been shopping himself to major promoters. Only one problem: He's still under contract to Wolf. Bradley's next bout is supposed to be against **Otis Grant**. That's now on hold.

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Andrew Golota	Ray Mercer	2½-1	Golota is the best fighter that can't win a fight
Andrew Golota	Tim Witherspoon	2½-1	Not much separates Mercer and Spoon
Oscar De La Hoya	Pernell Whitaker	2-1	Great event! Big step up in class for Oscar
Kostya Tszyu	Charles Murray	3-1	Kostya too strong for The Natural
Junior Jones	Kevin Kelley	3-1	Jones looks back on top of his game

Las Vegas Hilton

"... by far the most impressive fight card assembled..." -Black Belt Magazine

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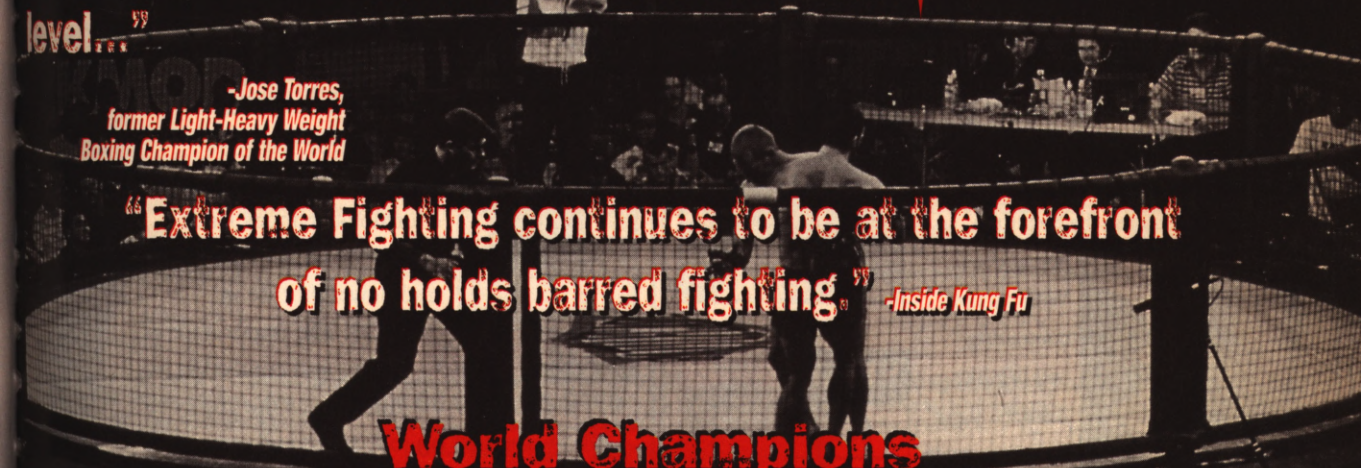
-Jose Torres, former Light-Heavy Weight Boxing Champion of the World

"... has to be ranked number one... among no holds barred pay per views..."

-Fighting Sports Newsletter



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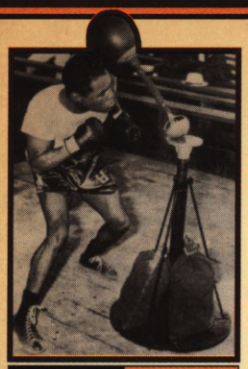
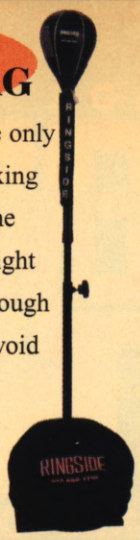
BACK TO THE BASICS



Cobra Reflex Bag

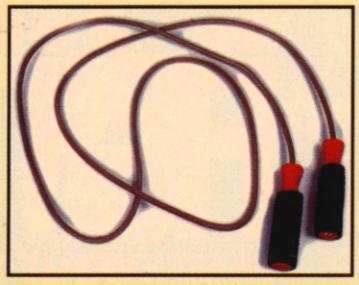


Henry Armstrong is the only man in the history of boxing to simultaneously hold the title in three separate weight divisions. He did this through his masterful ability to avoid being hit. His cobra-like reflexes and hand speed are the mark of a true champion in any era.

STYLE	Your Price
#CRB-1 (Filled Base)	$119.99
(Plus $25.00 Add'l. Shipping)	
#CRBU-1 (Unfilled Base)	$99.99
(Plus $5.00 Add'l. Shipping)	

Leather Speed Rope

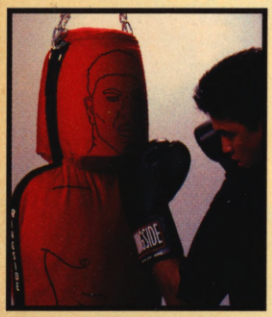
Even a young **Sonny Liston** knew the importance of foot speed and endurance. A good speed rope is **vital** to gaining durability and the agility needed in the ring.



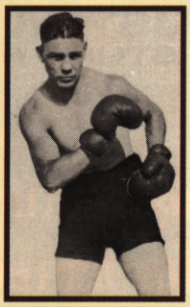
STYLE	Your Price
#JR7 (7.5ft)	$11.99
#JR8 (8.5ft)	$12.99
#JR9 (9.5ft)	$13.99

Exact Target Bag

In the late 1920s the boxing "dummy" became popular. Like many champions of the day, **Jack Dempsey** assumed that the more realistic the target, the better the preparation. With human contouring and life-like features, these dummies made great sparring partners.

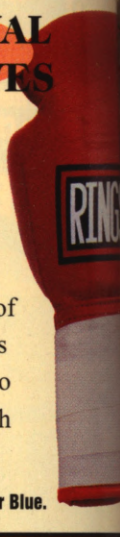


STYLE	Your Price
#ET	$139.99
(Plus $15.00 Add'l. Shipping)	



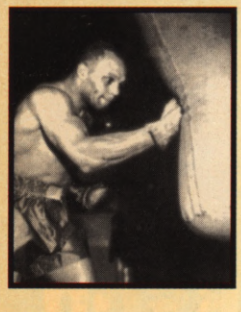
Professional Fight Gloves

The professional fight glove has undergone enormous changes since **Harry Greb** won the middleweight title in 1923. The importance of safety and comfort is as timeless as the ability to out-score and out-punch your opponent.



STYLE	Your Price
#PFG-8	$110.00
#PFG-10R (Regular Hand Size)	$110.00
#PFG-10L (Large Hand Size)	$110.00
Prices are for a set of 4 gloves	

Available in Red, White, Black or Blue.



Free-Standing Heavybag

The basic hanging heavybag has long been a central piece of equipment for fighters of the past and present. Fighters of **Jersey Joe's** era could have only imagined a free-standing heavybag that could provide such an intense and flexible workout.

STYLE	Your Price
#FHB	$259.99
(Plus $25.00 Add'l. Shipping)	

Super Body Protector

Hard-hitting champions of the past like **Stanley Ketchel** often had problems getting durable sparring partners. While training for his fight with Jack Johnson, Ketchel honed his body attack with his sparring partner, who used a quilted blanket to protect his mid-section.

STYLE	Your Price
#SBP	$42.99

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March 8, 1997

Bally's Park Place, Atlantic City at 12:00 PM (EST)

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PROCEDURES/RULES

1. All auction participants must pre-register to bid.
2. For registration and pre-auction phone bidding, our offices will handle calls thru Wednesday, March 5, 1997. Phone calls will be accepted at (815) 744-6902 between the hours of 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM Central Time.
3. Registration and pre-auction phone bidding will resume from our Bally's Park Place office in Atlantic City on Thursday, March 6, 1997 (11:00 AM - 6:00 PM) Eastern Time and close Saturday, March 8, 1997. You may contact us directly by dialing (609) 340-2283. This Atlantic City phone number will be in service these 3 days only.
4. "UP TO" Bids - Due to anticipated volume of activity , "UP TO" or "left bids" are strongly encouraged. "UP TO" or limit bids are an option. In placing such a bid your are instructing us to competitively bid on your behalf up to (but not over) a given limit. "UP TO" bids are kept in strictest confidence and can be a valuable tool for bidders. Early bids recorded in the book are given preference by the auctioneer over live bids from the floor on the day of the auction, which should encourage early, aggressive bidding by those unable to attend the auction in person.
5. Live phone bidding privileges are available only to those persons who have placed a bid on that particular lot(s) prior to Saturday, March 8, 1997. You must indicate your wish to be called on March 8th when your lot comes up for auction so you can be involved in the live bidding process.
6. Live phone bidders will be called several minutes prior to the auctioning of their desired lot. IT IS THE BIDDERS RESPONSIBILITY TO BE AVAILABLE, WITH HIS PHONE LINE OPEN, AT THE TIME OF OUR CALL. We have many phone lines available for bidders so there is ample space to accommodate interested parties.
7. Bidders who will be present at the auction can register directly with us at our Auction Site at Bally's Park Place on March 6, 7, and 8 during viewing hours. You will be asked to present proper I.D. and credit references, to receive a numbered bidding paddle.
8. The auctioneers reserve the right to refuse bidding privileges to any person for any reason.
9. Bids are accepted at the auctioneer's discretion although preference will be Given to those bids in the order that they are received.
10. Live bidding increments are at the auctioneer's discretion. Pre-auction phone bids will be accepted at 10% increases.
11. VIEWING AND CONDITION REPORTS - All items will be on display at Bally's Park Place starting on Thursday, 12 Noon, and continue through Saturday afternoon. For those phone bidders wishing more detailed descriptions, our office staff will assist you with further descriptions. Prior to March 5th for any descriptions, please call **Craig Hamilton at (516) 286-0970**.
12. A 15% buyer's premium will be added to all purchases.
13. PAYMENT - No settlements will be made at the auction. Auction winners will be billed by mail and sent invoices within 10 days of closing. Payment is expected within 14 days of the date of invoice. We accept checks, bank drafts, wires, and money orders. Please be advised that no credit card payments will be accepted for this auction.
14. **ALL SALES ARE FINAL**
15. Placing a bid constitutes acceptance of the above terms of sale.

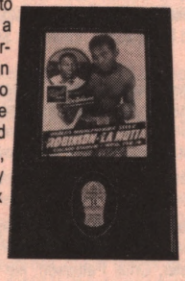
****

1. Jack Dempsey Full Color Tinted Photo

Oversized bar room portrait of a "grizzled" Dempsey in tank top and shorts. Pastels and flesh tones highlight this nicely framed 22" x 28" piece. Estimate: $300-$350

2. Robinson-LaMotta Advertising Display

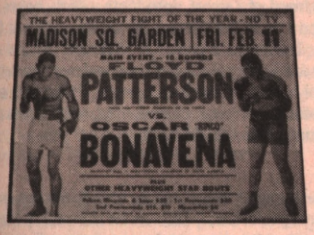
Features an oversized photo of Sugar Ray wearing a Slidewell Bow Tie, an advertiser of many boxing bouts in the 1950's. In addition to advertising this product, the bout between Robinson and LaMotta on February 4, 1951 is also prominently featured. Framed to 16" x 27". Estimate: $400-$450



3. Jimmy McLarnin Autographed Color Tinted Photo

A bold signature adorns this beautiful color tinted portrait of McLarnin in full boxing pose. Originally hung in Kid Kaplan's bar. Framed to 22" x 27". Estimate: $200-$250

4. Floyd Patterson-Oscar Bonavena Fight Poster



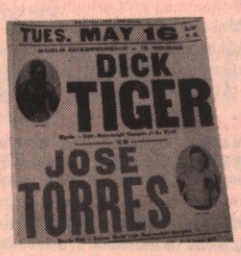
Both fighters are displayed in full body shots on this 22" x 28" cardboard on-site poster billed as the Heavyweight fight of the year. Framed. EX condition. Estimate: $500-$600

5. Joe Brown-Carlos Ortiz Fight Poster

Both fighters are displayed in full body shots on this 14" x 22" cardboard, on-site poster. Signed by Ortiz, framed, VG+ condition. Estimate: $200-$250

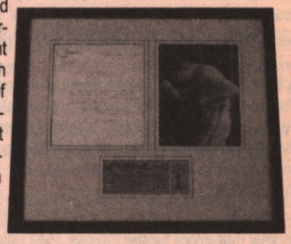
6. Dick Tiger-Jose Torres Fight Poster

Both fighters pictured on this 22" x 28" cardboard on-site poster for their match on May 16, 1967. Framed, EX+ condition. Estimate: $500-$600



7. Georges Carpentier Autographed Display

A beautiful hand written letter of Carpentier on his own illustrated stationery and signed, "Georges Carpentier Lt. Heavyweight Champ", mounted with a nice studio portrait of Carpentier and a brilliant full unused ticket to the Carpentier-Gibbons fight held on 5/31/24. Framed. Estimate: $500-$600



8. Louis "Kid" Kaplan Color Tinted Photo

The great Featherweight Champ sports a regal pose wearing his Championship belt in a brilliant colorized photo. One hung in his bar. Framed to 22" x 27". Estimate: $300-$350

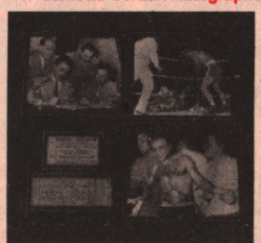
9. Bob Montgomery-Ike Williams Autographed Display

An autographed training photo of Montgomery mounted with a full, unused, illustrated ticket to the Montgomery-Williams fight held on 8/4/47. Also features an action photo to that great bout. Framed to 15" x 28". Estimate: $150-$200

10. Sonny Liston-Floyd Patterson II Fight Poster

Both fighters are displayed on this 14" x 22" cardboard, on-site poster to their second fight held on July 22, 1963 in Las Vegas. Liston demolished Patterson a second time retaining his crown. EX+, framed. Estimate: $500-$600

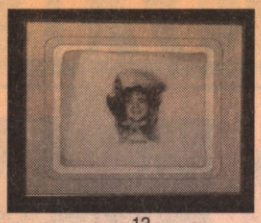
11. LaMotta-Cerdan Autographed Display



Features a photo of the two signing for the fight (signed by LaMotta), with an action photo from their 1949 fight, and a great photo of Joe Louis raising Jake's hand in victory with his brother at his side (signed by LaMotta). Framed with large ticket stub to their first fight and a full ticket to their scheduled rematch. 22" x 22" Estimate: $250-$300

Mastro & Steinbach

Atlantic City Fine Sports Auction - March 8, 1997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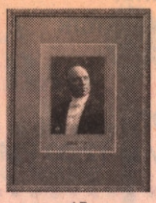
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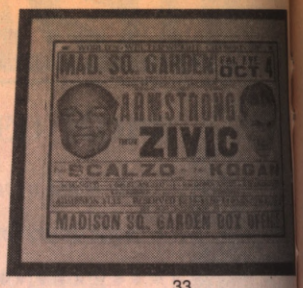

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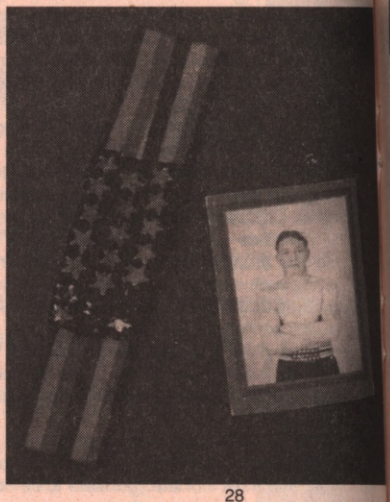
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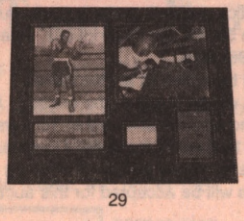
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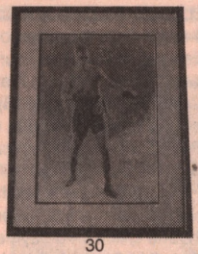
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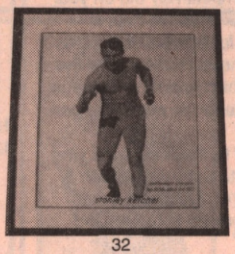
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12. Marcel Cerdan Silk
A unique and rare silk which features a boxing glove in the center with a great likeness of Cerdan inside it. Beautifully framed to 17" x 17". Estimate: $300-$400

13. Jimmy McLarnin Autographed Display
Features a beautiful inscribed studio portrait of McLarnin with a full, unused, illustrated ticket to the McLarnin-Young Corbett III bout on 5/29/33. Estimate: $125-$150

14. Max Baer Autographed Display
A beautiful studio photo of Max boldly inscribed and dated 1935 is mounted with a unique full ticket to Max Baer's Victory Ball to honor the Newly Crowned Heavyweight Champion on June 24, 1934. Framed to 12" x 17". Estimate: $175-$200

15. Robert Fitzsimmons Autographed Photo
An extremely rare autographed photo of the man who defeated James Corbett to win the Heavyweight Title in 1897. The photo displays a resplendent Fitzsimmons in formal attire in a classic bust shot. Antique photo by White of New York has been signed, "Sincerely yours Robert Fitzsimmons". Some lettering does run into his dark suit, but signature is strong and clear. 51/2" x 8" framed photo. One of boxing's toughest autographs on a photo. Estimate: $2,500-$3,000

16. Sonny Liston Autographed Photo
A beautiful black and white photo of Liston in full fight pose which has been boldly signed in blue ink, "Sonny Liston". Obtained originally from one of Liston's handlers, this is simply put, the best signed Liston photo we have ever seen. Some edge faults, but overall a beauty. 8" x 10" Estimate: $1,250-$1,500

17. Joe Louis Advertising Broadside
Original mat photo for the famous Joe Louis Hair Pomade ad of the 1930's. Features Louis in boxing attire with his hair prominently displayed. Framed to 15" x 18". Estimate: $200-$250

18. Chalky Wright Display
Beautiful photo of Wright receiving his title belt from Nat Fleischer of Ring (signed by Fleischer), mounted with full unused ticket to the fight between Wright and Lulu Constantino on 9/25/42. Framed to 15" x 17". Estimate: $125-$150

19. Bennie Bass Autographed Display
A vintage bold signature in white ink on a beautiful photo in fight pose mounted with a full, unused ticket to the Bass-Red Chapman fight on 9/27/27. Scarce signature and ticket. Framed to 14" x 20". Estimate: $300-$350

20. Autograph Album
This album was compiled by a sports collector beginning in 1932. Includes Boxing autographs of Jack Dempsey, Jack Johnson, Johnny Coulon, Dave Barry (referee of Tunney-Dempsey Long Count) and Joe Louis. Other sport autographs include Glen Cunningham and the 1939 Chicago White Sox Team. Many clippings, original snapshot photos and ticket stubs. Estimate: $400-$500

21. Champions Autographed Glove
A red Everlast glove signed by great Boxing champions including: Ali, Griffith, Fullmer, Basilio, Pep, Backus, Olivares, O'Grady, Torres, Jack, Gavilan, Foster, Ortiz, and Antuofermo. Mint signatures on a Mint glove. Estimate: $150-$200

22. Hall of Fame Autographed Glove
Oversized gold glove signed by LaMotta, Walcott, Griffith, Gavilan, Conn, Pep, Antuofermo, Olivares, Chuvalo, Fullmer, Foster, Ortiz, Patterson, Ike Williams, Basilio and Napoles. Bold signatures. Estimate: $200-$250

23. Muhammad Ali Cartoon Art - Lot of 2
Two Mint condition original cartoons by Hollreiser; one covers the Ali-Liston II fight, the other his comeback fight against Jerry Quarry. Professionally framed to 9"x14". Beautiful likeness of the Champ. Estimate: $150-$200

24. Muhammad Ali Effanbee Doll
A Mint doll of Ali offered in the original box. Comes exactly as it was in its original offering. Perfect! Estimate: $250-$300

25. Harry Greb Antique Photo
A magnificent photographic portrait of the great Harry Greb sitting posed bare-chested in a stunning profile shot. A 16" x 20" black and white shot in exceptional condition with a few minor surface faults. Extremely rare especially in this size. Estimate: $800-$1,000

26. Battling Nelson Antique Photo
A stunning original studio portrait of Nelson mounted on an antique mat still in its original frame. Nelson is posed in suit and tie and has the menacing look of champion. 15" x 191/2" photo with some foxing and faults which do not affect the image. Vintage to his days as Lightweight Champion. Rare in this size. Estimate: $500-$700

27. Muhammad Ali Signed Print
22" x 26" color print of an original Ali drawing boldly signed by the Champ with a large, vintage Ali signature. Pictures Ali standing over a fallen foe. Mint condition.
Estimate: $250-$300

28. Stanley Ketchel Championship Belt
Stanley Ketchel, known as the "Michigan Assassin" was clearly one of the greats in boxing's early era in this country. He won the Middleweight Title in 1908 and fought many of boxing's great legends including: Billy Papke, Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, Sam Langford and the great Jack Johnson. He was shot and killed in 1910. Offered here is his Championship sash belt. Sporting a red, white, and blue sash, the waistband is blue with 20 stars across it. This truly special piece comes with an antique photo showing Ketchel wearing the belt and a letter of authenticity from Wesley Ramey, Jr. who obtained the belt from his father. Ketchel's grandmother gave the belt to a good friend of Ketchel, John Wirth. Wirth, before his death passed it on to Wes Ramey, Sr. (an accomplished fighter himself). Included are photos of Wirth and Ketchel as well as Wirth and Ramey, Sr. A truly great and rare commemorative to one of boxing's mysterious legends. Three stars are missing and several are loose, otherwise this belt is in fine condition. Estimate: $40,000-$50,000

29. Sonny Liston-Floyd Patterson Autographed Display
An autographed training photo of Patterson mounted with a cut signature of Sonny Liston in ink along with a weigh-in pass to their first fight and a full, unused ticket to their first fight. Framed to 20" x 20". Estimate: $400-$500

30. Harry Greb Color Tinted Photo
A splendid Apeda Studio portrait photo of Greb in fight pose professionally framed to 21" x 26". NR-MT. Estimate: $400-$450

31. Jersey Joe Walcott Color Tinted Photo
A smiling Walcott displaying his Ring Belt. Photo by National Studios shows a full body shot. Framed to 21" x 28", NR-MT. Estimate: $300-$400

32. Stanley Ketchel Hand Tinted Photo
A magnificent, oversized, colorized portrait photo of the "Michigan Assassin" portraying Ketchel in his famous half-step pose. A wonderful companion piece to the Ketchel belt offered elsewhere in this sale. Framed to 27" x 31", NR-MT. Estimate: $400-$500

33. Sugar Ray Robinson Pro Debut Poster
Robinson burst on to the professional scene with a spectacular 2nd round knockout of Joe Echevarria at Madison Square Garden on October 4, 1940. This on-site, cardboard, 22" x 28" poster features the main event between Henry Armstrong and Fritzie Zivic, but mentions Sugar Ray as "Making His Pro Debut". This is the only version of this poster that mentions Robinson and this is the only one we have seen. Framed. Estimate: $2,250-$2,500

Mastro & Steinbach

Atlantic City Fine Sports Auction - March 8, 1997

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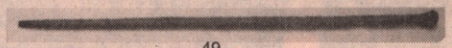
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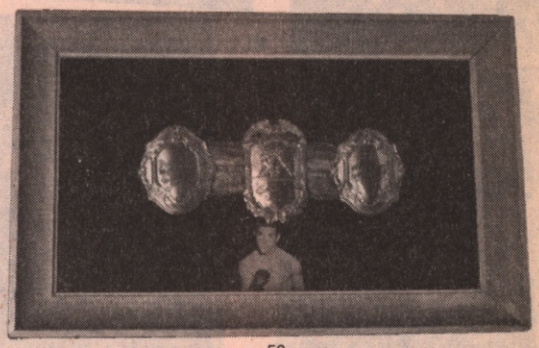
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34. Joe Gans-Battling Nelson Fight Poster
Both fighters are displayed along with an action shot from their prior fight on this extremely rare on-site poster for their battle on July 4, 1908. This fight held at Mission Street Arena in San Francisco ended with Nelson winning the Lightweight Title with a 17 round knockout of Gans. Classic red & blue on white background, this rarity measures 14" x 40". Only one other on-site Gans poster known to exist. Framed. Estimate: $10,000-$15,000

35. Mike Tyson Amateur Trunks
Fantastic red, white, and blue amateur fight worn trunks used by Mike Tyson during the Olympic Trials. These trunks show heavy wear which does not detract in any way from their natural beauty. One of the most colorful pair of trunks ever offered in public auction. Tyson fight worn equipment is extremely hard to come by. These trunks are offered with a letter of authenticity from respected boxing photographer, Tom Casino and are offered with a color photograph of Mike Tyson in the ring wearing the trunks. Mounted in a beautiful museum quality frame. Estimate: $8,000-$10,000

36. Rocky Marciano Training Gloves
Twelve ounce MacGregor model sparring gloves used by Marciano in preparation for his 1950 bout with Tiger Lowry in Providence, RI. Professionally framed, these gloves are offered with a letter of authenticity from the Champ's brother, Louis Marciano. Estimate: $3,000-$3,500

37. Sugar Ray Robinson Fight Worn Trunks
A pair of white with black trim Benlee boxing trunks worn by the great Sugar Ray during his illustrious career. These trunks are circa late 1940's and exhibit heavy wear. There is a tear in the Benlee tag on the waist, otherwise they are perfectly intact. These trunks are from the estate of Sugar Ray Robinson and are offered with a letter of authenticity from his last wife, Mildred Robinson. Scarce and desirable. Estimate: $8,000-$10,000

38. Mike Tyson Training Gloves
A pair of heavily used red, Ringside gloves used in sparring by Mike Tyson in preparation for his championship fight with Frank Bruno on March 10, 1996 in which Tyson emerged with his second Heavyweight Title. Both gloves have been signed by Tyson. Gloves were obtained from Tyson's sparring partner for this bout, Jose Ribalta and are offered with a letter of authenticity from Ribalta. Estimate: $2,000-$2,500

39. Larry Holmes Autographed Exhibition Trunks
Beautiful, white Everlast trunks which include the Larry Holmes tag on the left leg and Pony tag on the right leg. Worn by Holmes during an exhibition in 1982, these trunks have been boldly signed and dated by the Champ. Offered with a letter of authenticity from Larry Holmes. Estimate: $500-$600

40. Roberto Duran Fight Worn Robe
A magnificent full-length red robe with white trim used in Duran's fight with Josef Nsubuga on January 13, 1980. Constructed of red velour, this classic Duran robe includes on the back the words in white lettering, "Mano De Piedra", and below it a large white fist to depict his nickname, "The Hands of Stone". Obtained directly from Duran's wife, Felicidad, this robe is offered with a letter of authenticity from her. Estimate: $3,000-$4,000

41. Sugar Ray Robinson Autographed Display
The May 1958 issue of Ring picturing Robinson & Basilio boldly signed in vintage pen by Sugar Ray framed with an Official's Pass to their first fight. Beautifully mounted and framed 16" x 17". Estimate: $150-$200

42. Alexis Arguello Autograph - Lot of 4
On June 5, 1992, Arguello wore a robe, trunks, shoes, and gloves during an exhibition at the Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, NY. This collection is offered here and includes the blue and white robe and trunks with the Hall of Fame logo, a pair of white boxing shoes and one of the gloves worn by Alexis. All 4 are signed and dated by this former great. All pieces come with letters of authenticity from the Boxing Hall of Fame. Estimate: $300-$400

43. Boxing Hall of Fame Autographed Robe
Beautiful red and white robe with Hall of Fame logo which has been signed boldly by Alexis Arguello, Kid Gavilan, and Archie Moore. Comes with letter of authenticity from the Hall of Fame. Estimate: $100-$125

44. Jack Johnson/James Jeffries Autographed Display
Two large and bold ink signatures of these two great former Heavyweight Champions have been beautifully framed and matted with two gorgeous color boxing cards of the fighters and a full illustrated, unused ticket to their famous fight in Reno on July 4, 1910. 13" x 18" Estimate: $1,250-$1,500

45. James J. Corbett Autographed Photo
A magnificent sepia tone Apeda Studio portrait of a distinguished Corbett in suit and tie which has been boldly inscribed, signed, and dated by the man who defeated the great John L. The signature and photo both rate a "10". Nicely matted and framed. Estimate: $800-$1,000

46. Evander Holyfield Fight Worn Trunks
A gorgeous pair of fight worn trunks from Evander Holyfield's first fight as a heavyweight against James "Quick" Tillis. This fight took place on July 16, 1988 and ended in victory for Holyfield by K.O. in round 5. These trunks are deep black satin with red trim and have the name "Holyfield" on the waistband. These were originally sold at a charity auction in Atlanta. They are accompanied by a letter of authenticity from Evander's brother, Bernard Holyfield. Holyfield fight worn equipment is virtually non-existent in the collectibles hobby as the three time Heavyweight Champion retains nearly all of his equipment. Condition is Very Good. Estimate: $10,000-$15,000

47. Evander Holyfield Fight Worn Robe
The robe worn in his first heavyweight fight against James "Quick" Tillis on July 16, 1988. This robe is the companion to the trunks offered in this sale. Beautiful deep black satin with red trim. On the back in red it reads "Evander Real Deal Holyfield". This robe is in magnificent condition and represents one of the finest pieces of equipment used by this great three time Heavyweight Champion. Originally sold in a charity auction in Atlanta, this robe comes with a letter of authenticity from Evander's brother, Bernard Holyfield. A gem! Estimate: $12,500-$15,000

48. Billy Papke Fight Worn Gloves & Flag
The actual fight worn gloves and flag worn around the waist of early Middleweight Champion, Billy Papke during his fight with the great Georges Carpentier on October 23, 1912. Papke won this fight on a disqualification in round 12. Given the age, the gloves are in very good condition. The flag has been restored. Both items are beautifully framed with an original plaque. A historic and extremely rare combination. Estimate: $4,000-$5,000

49. 19th Century Hand-Carved Boxing Cane
This magnificent cane pictures James Corbett, John L. Sullivan and English Champion, Charley Mitchell and chronicles the great match between Corbett and Mitchell. Finely detailed, the cane literally tells a story of early boxing as you turn it. One of the finest period pieces to surface and in outstanding condition. 36" long. Estimate: $1,500-$2,000

50. Sammy Mandell Lightweight Championship Belt
Sammy Mandell was undisputed World Lightweight Champion from 1926 to 1930. His career spanned 14 years and included victories over ring greats Jimmy McLarnin and Tony Canzoneri. This offering is his championship belt awarded for his victory in 1926 over reigning champ, Rocky Kansas. This belt includes three plates resting on the original red, white, and blue sash. The silver colored plate on the left states, "Boxing Writers Assn. Of Greater New York", the group who awarded this belt. The plate on the right states, "Worlds Lightweight Champion." The center plate sports an eagle at the top and pictures two boxers squaring off. This plate states "1926 Sammy Mandell." Beautifully framed with a photograph of this great Champion. This belt is offered by the son of this great fighter and comes with a letter of authenticity from him along with news clippings and photographs of Sammy Mandell including a photograph showing him wearing the belt. Some fading to the sash, but otherwise in fine condition. Estimate: $12,000-$15,000

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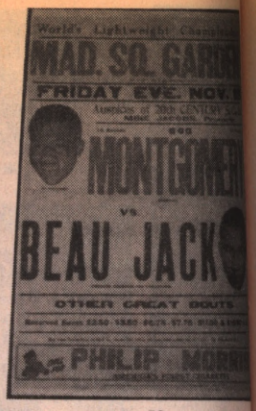

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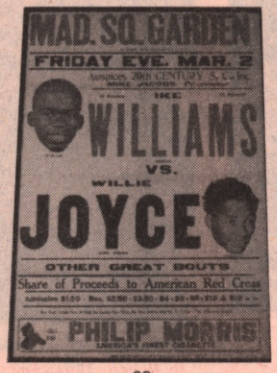

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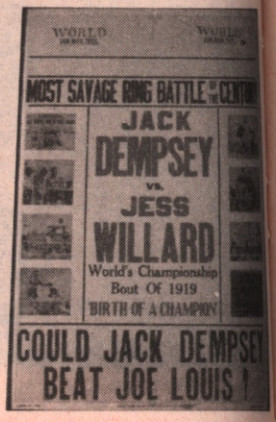

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51. Sammy Mandell Fight Worn Gloves
A pair of 8 ounce gloves which were fight worn by this great Lightweight Champion. We do not know which fight they were used in, but the gloves were deemed important enough to be passed down from Mandell to his son who offers them in sale here. Both gloves include the Ken-Wel Brand label and show heavy wear. Some leather tears in left gloves. Comes with a letter of authenticity from son of Sammy Mandell. Estimate: $300-$500

52. John L. Sullivan Currier & Ives Print
Beautiful color print of Sullivan in full fighting pose done by Currier & Ives in 1883. Some very light foxing, but overall very nice with great color. 71/2 x 101/2, framed. Estimate: $400-$500

53. Slapsie Maxie Rosenbloom Light Heavyweight Championship Medallion
A beautiful red, white, and blue enameled on 14K yellow gold medallion presented to Maxie Rosenbloom by Madison Square Garden in honor of his reign as Light Heavyweight Champion. Maxie held the title for over four years and went on to have a highly successful career with a nightclub act. He is considered one of boxing's most colorful characters. This important and rare award is in impeccable condition. Estimate: $7,000-$8,000

54. Mike Tyson Fight Worn Amateur Robe
A beautiful blue thigh length robe with yellow sash and trim worn by Mike Tyson during his amateur fighting days under the legendary boxing trainer, Cus D'Amato. On the back of the robe it reads, "Catskill Boxing Club". A significant robe in that Tyson did not wear robes as a professional. This robe was obtained from Tyson's former trainer, Kevin Rooney and comes with his signed letter of authenticity. Beautiful condition. Estimate: $12,000-$15,000

55. Autographed Book - Lot of 4
Nice lot of signed boxing books including: Smoking Joe (signed by Joe Frazier & Phil Berger), By George (signed by George Foreman), Dempsey By The Man Himself (signed twice by Jack Dempsey), and The Heavyweight Champions (signed by Gene Tunney), all in great condition. A good collection of books signed by four former Heavyweight Champions. Estimate: $300-$400

56. Oscar DeLaHoya Autographed Glove
Beautiful, bold signature on red Everlast glove. Signed, "Oscar DeLaHoya '96 Champ". Nice collectible for this former Olympic Champion and current World Junior Welterweight Champion. Estimate: $75-$100

57. Autographed Glove - Lot of 2
Two gloves signed by numerous Champions and Challengers including: Saddler, Pep, Olivares, LaMotta, Walcott, Griffith, Ali, Frazier, Holmes, Patterson, and Hagler. A number of signatures have bled into glove although those mentioned here are in good shape. Estimate: $125-$150.

58. Boxing Tickets
Twenty-seven full tickets to various boxing matches (mostly amateur) in different venues. Several tickets date into the 1880's and 1890's and run into the 1950's. Condition ranges from EX to NR-MT. Lot also includes 226 ticket stubs. Estimate: $100-$150

59. Bob Montgomery vs. Beau Jack Poster
November 19, 1943, Madison Square Garden, World's Lightweight Championship. There is no finer example of 1940's championship NYC boxing than this poster, Montgomery vs. Jack! Traditional 28 x 40 one sheet poster tells the story with 2 of boxing's true legendary figures in the 2nd of a history making 4 fight series. Jack regained the title he had lost to the "Bobcat" just 6 months earlier. EX with light restoration. Framed onsite. Estimate: $800-$1,000

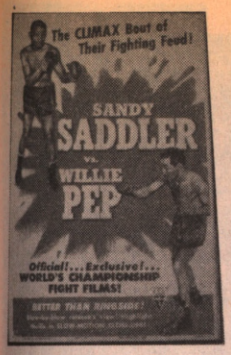
60. Joe Louis' Revenge
Joe Louis vs. Max Schmeling, June 22nd, 1938, Heavyweight Championship of the World, Yankee Stadium, 28 x 40 poster. Return bout between these 2 legendary Hall of Famers. There is no need to go over the historical significance of this, the second in their 2 fight series. As our country was preparing for a World War that had already shaken the balance of power in Europe, Schmeling, the darling of Nazi Germany (although not a Nazi himself) was K.O.'d in one round as Hitler listened to the fight on the wireless, tuning out the reception when the result was obvious. Louis, the Champion, had redeemed his earlier defeat at the hands of Schmeling. Handsomely illustrated with stunning graphics. EX with some restoration, framed. Estimate: $1,000-$1,200

61. Mushy Callahan vs. Andy Divodi Poster
This is another priceless piece of boxing nostalgia. A Tex Richard Promotion (boldly printed on poster) from the Original Madison Square Garden, 8th Avenue and 49th, World Welterweight Championship held March 14, 1927. This poster sports fabulous photos of all the participants, as well as action shots of previous important bouts. Glorious roaring 20's type photography and text highlight this 67 year old masterpiece. Since the original Garden was torn down some 60 odd years ago, you can see why this piece holds a special place on boxing's grand past. 28 x 40 one sheet. EX condition, framed on site. Estimate: $700-$800

62. Ike Williams vs. Willie Joyce - 12 Round Title Elimination
This fabulous full, one sheet poster of this classic Lightweight match up was dubbed by Nat Fleischer of Ring Magazine as "Round 12, Round of the Year". A Mike Jacobs Promotion, this March 2, 1945 fight was one of many 1940's encounters by future lightweight Champ Ike Williams. Willie Joyce was a perennial top ten contender throughout his glorious career. This is a classic 1940's poster, 28 x 40, in traditional Madison Square Garden style! EX condition, framed on site. Estimate: $800-$1,000

63. Canzoneri's Last Pro Fight!
Tony Canzoneri vs. Al "Bummy" Davis, November 1, 1939. This was to be Canzoneri's last professional fight in a glorious 175 bout career, 1925-39. Canzoneri, the three time Lightweight, Featherweight, and Welterweight Champ was one of the most popular fighters to ever slip between the ropes. Always a crowd favorite, this transplanted New Yorker fought anywhere from 118-140 pounds! In his last pro bout, the New York crowd paid tribute, one last time to their hero, but he would lose to an undefeated newcomer, who himself would become an all-time crowd favorite, "The Hebrew Hammer", Al "Bummy" Davis. Davis would distinguish himself as one of the dirtiest fighters that ever lived! This poster is an absolute jewel, Mint condition, traditional Madison Square Garden, one sheet (28 x 40) poster. EX condition, framed on site. Estimate: $800-$1,000

64. "Birth Of A Champion"
Jack Dempsey vs. Jess Willard, Heavyweight Championship of the World, July 4, 1919 in Toledo, Ohio. "Birth of a Champion" proclaims this starling piece of historical boxing advertising! This 28 x 40, one sheet poster is brilliantly illustrated with fight action photos along the border of the poster. They include: a weigh-in photo, tight shots of both Willard and Dempsey, and a photo of the headline from the next day's paper proclaiming Dempsey as the new Champion! This is the official fight film showing of the "MOST SAVAGE RING BATTLE OF THE CENTURY". Terrific graphics and illustrations, a fabulous piece of history! EX condition, framed. Estimate: $750-$1,000



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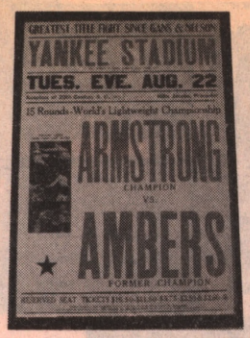

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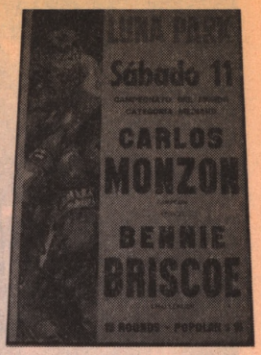

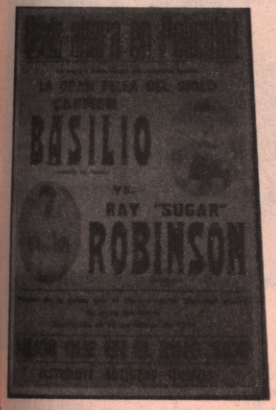

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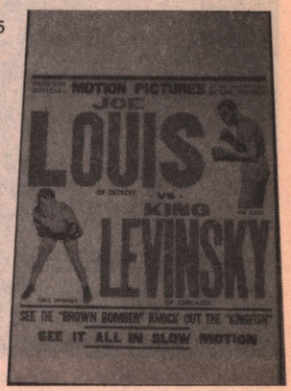


65. Ken Overlin vs. Steve Belloise
Typical 1940's match up of Overlin (Champion) against #1 ranked Belloise for World's Middleweight Championship at the Garden! This traditional 1940's affair was also highlighted with an under card bout featuring former Middleweight Champion and Hall of Famer, Solly Krieger, and a separate bout featuring former Featherweight Champ, Petey Scalzo. A fabulous championship show, in the grand Mike Jacobs tradition! EX condition, framed on site. Estimate: $600-$700

66. "Climax Bout Of This Fighting Feud" Autographed Poster
New York City, "Climax Bout of this Fighting Feud" proclaims this startling poster of the official round-by-round showing of this epic battle between Willie Pep vs. Sandy Saddler on September 26, 1951. "Exclusive Showing" by RKO Studios. Explicit graphics and colors dominate this poster advertising one of the greatest fight series in history! Full body shots of Pep and Saddler highlight this gem, and in addition, Pep's autograph on the poster at his Hall of Fame induction ceremony. EX+ condition, framed. Estimate: $400-$500

67. "The Greatest Lightweight Championship Since Gans & Nelson"
This 28 x 40 poster bills this fight, Henry Armstrong vs. Lou Ambers on August 22, 1939 at Yankee Stadium, as "The Greatest Lightweight Championship Since Gans & Nelson". May of 1938 Armstrong batters Barney Ross for the 2nd of his 3 simultaneously held world titles, and just 3 months later he defeats Lou Ambers for the record holding 3rd. Now in August 1939, we are set for the rematch. This poster is dripping with nostalgia, and truly matches 2 of boxing's all-time greats. A classic Mike Jacobs, 20th Century Boxing Club Promotion! EX condition, framed on site. Estimate: $1,250-$1,500

68. Sammy Angott vs. Joe Peralta, "Featuring The Lightweight Champion Of The World"
Angott who fought from 1935-50, was the current Lightweight Champion and was coming back from a loss to Henry Armstrong for this October 1, 1943 fight against Joe Peralta at the Detroit Olympia. "The Clutch", Angott, fought everyone including Robinson, Armstrong, Montgomery, Fritzie Zivic, Lew Jenkins, Allie Stoltz, Ike Williams and so on. As was the custom back in the 40's, often after a bitter loss, a Champion would take a "breather" type fight to get back his edge, and one of the favorite spots that was frequented by Champions of the 40's and 50's was none other than the Detroit Olympia! Here is another fine example of a poster from a lost era! Featured Hall of Famer! EX condition, framed on site. Estimate: $500-$600

69. "See The Official Fight Film Showing As Carnera Topples The Man Mountain" Poster
Joe Louis vs. Primo Carnera, Worlds Heavyweight Championship on June 25, 1935 at Yankee Stadium. Magnificent head shots of Louis and a smiling Carnera highlight this tremendous advertising poster! Louis, in 1935, was already on his march to the crown, one of his busiest years. Carnera, whose life was depicted in the Budd Schulberg screenplay "The Harder They Fall", was one of boxing's most romanticized fight figures, both in and out of the prize ring. Handsomely illustrated, 28 x 40, features the "young, pre-champion Louis" and is truly a rare piece of boxing history! EX condition with some restoration, framed. Estimate: $500-$600

70. "La Vida De Joe Louis" Poster
This magnificent 28 x 40 poster is one of the rarest Joe Louis collectibles known! A brilliantly illustrated "rare foreign version" of the Life of Joe Louis, 1951. Bright, sky blue background and a striking robed pose of a hand wrapped Louis dominates almost 2/3 of this lithograph poster. All of the graphics are in Spanish! This poster is genuinely one of a kind! There are no others, or similar type lithos that are known to exist. This piece is nothing short of MAGNIFICENT! It must be seen! EX condition, framed. Estimate: $1,500-$1,750

71. Carlos Monzon vs. Bennie Briscoe Poster
Luna Park, affectionately known as the Madison Square Garden of South America was the site for this November 11, 1972, 15 round Middleweight title go. Monzon on his home turf pounded out a grueling 15 round decision that many ringside observers felt Briscoe had won. The decision prompted a rematch. This magnificent 28 x 40 lithograph poster sports a brilliant illustration of both fighters locked in battle, as they are depicted in that "South American Spanish" style that reminds one of the toreador with his bull. The poster has the look and feel of a gallery art print! A superb lithograph, this rare, unusual, and most attractive piece commemorates a classic 15 round title match up. EX condition, framed on site. Estimate: $600-$750

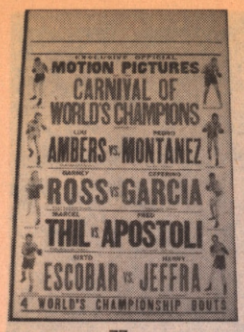
72. Sugar Ray Robinson vs. Carmen Basilio Poster
"Official Showing", "Direct From Ringside", for a viewing in Mexico! Sugar Ray Robinson vs. Carmen Basilio on March 25, 1958 at Chicago Stadium. This rare and absolutely fabulously illustrated 28 x 40 poster is all in Spanish and sports the colorful illustrations and graphics that we have previously seen in these unusual foreign versions. EX condition, framed. Estimate: $300-$400

73. Sonny Liston vs. Eddie Machen
September 7, 1960 at Sick's Stadium in Seattle, #1 Liston vs. #2 Machen in a 12 round title elimination bout for the "uncrowned Heavyweight title" or rather, the right to fight Floyd Patterson for the crown! Liston was a controversial 12 round decision winner over the perennial spoiler, Eddie Machen. Sonny Liston memorabilia is extremely difficult to find, as the "bad boy" of boxing has reached cult status. It's sad that this adulation would come long after Sonny has passed. Machen, the perennial challenger, fought among others, Joey Maxim, Nino Valdes, and Tommy "Hurricane" Jackson. EX+ condition, framed onsite. Estimate: $500-$600

74. 1935 Louis/Baer Swedish Poster
Here's another of those marvelous lithograph posters, foreign design, and all Swedish graphics designed for the showing of the great Joe Louis vs. Max Baer, September 24, 1935 in NYC. This 60 year old piece of history is a "splendid" rendition with an artist's depiction of a "regal" like Joe Louis standing over the fallen idol, Max Baer as he struggles to his feet! This also is one of the rarest examples of Louis memorabilia and we have never seen another like it! NR-MT condition, framed. Estimate: $1,250-$1,500

75. "See The Brown Bomber Do Battle With The Kingfish" Poster
Brilliant, early Joe Louis (pre title), in one of the rarest Louis pieces around. Joe Louis vs. "King" Levinsky, August 7, 1935 in NYC. Very few of these posters survived as Levinsky was K.O.'d in 1 round and was quickly removed from the Heavyweight scene. This posters sports full body shots of both fighters and is an extremely rare, early Louis piece. Brilliant graphics, EX condition, light restoration, framed, fight film. Estimate: $600-$700

76. Featherweight Title Elimination Bout - Chalky Wright vs. Phil Terranova Poster
Former Featherweight Champion, Albert "Chalky" Wright, the first Mexican born fighter to hold a world title, tries to recapture the crown that he had lost just one year earlier to Willie Pep; by battling future Featherweight Champion, Phil Terranova, inside of 5 rounds in a 15 round title elimination bout June 4, 1943 at Madison Square Garden! Wright would get one last crack at Pep in 1944, but would lose a 15 round decision. Handsome, illustrated, traditional, 28 x 40 one sheet poster of 2 more Hall of Famers, this time in the Featherweight division. EX condition, framed on site. Estimate: $750-$800



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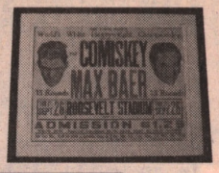

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77. "Carnival of Champions" Poster
"60 Rounds of Championship Boxing", September 23, 1937, Polo Grounds, NYC, 4 Title Fights, with 8 Hall of Fame Fighters! This was the promotion that launched one of boxing's greatest promoters, Mike Jacobs, and his 20th Century Boxing Club. For the first time anywhere, 4 Championship Title Bouts were on 1 card, 60 rounds of title fights, with 8 Hall of Fame Champions which included: Lou Ambers vs. Pedro Montanez (Lightweight Championship); Barney Ross vs. Ceferino Garcia (Welterweight Championship); Marcel Thil vs. Freddie Apostoli (Middleweight Championship); and Sixto Escobar vs. Harry Jeffra (Bantamweight Championship). All 8 fighters are illustrated on this red, white, and blue, 28 x 40, star spangled fight poster of the exclusive showing of this historic card! EX+ condition, framed. Estimate $800-$1,000

78. Stanley Ketchel vs. "Sailor" Joe Thomas Photo
Fabulous pre-fight, over-sized bar room photo showing Ketchel & Thomas squaring off at ring center (as was the custom at the turn of the century) just before they were set to do battle on August 18, 1908 in San Francisco, CA for the Middleweight Championship. Standing in photo are the handlers, referee, and principles. Prominently shown over Thomas' left shoulder is the great John L. Sullivan. All figures dominate this 24 x 36 Dana Studios portrait. Engraved in the photo are the words "Ketchel-Thomas contest, S.F., August 18, 08' ... won by Ketchel 2 rounds, K.O. Dana photo S.F." Tremendous 86 year old piece from the legendary Dana Studios of California, world renown for their turn of the century boxing photography! EX+ condition, framed. Estimate: $700-$800

79. Lightweight Champ vs. Welterweight Champ Poster
Henry "Homicide Hank" Armstrong K.O.'s Jenkins at famed NYC Polo Grounds on July 17, 1940 in a bid by the Lightweight Champion to gain the Welterweight crown! Lew Jenkins, the "cowpoke" from Milburn, TX had a storied career for 16 years, 1934-50, fighting every contender and Champion in SEVERAL different divisions. Classic Poster from deceased Polo Grounds. Great illustrations! NR-MT condition, framed on site. Estimate: $800-$1,000

80. "Worlds White Heavyweight Champion Of The World!" Poster
Originated in 1914, the title on this poster was still alive in 1940 for this bout between Max Baer and Pat Comiskey. Held in Roosevelt Stadium in Jersey City, NJ, it was promoted by Dempsey handler, Doc Kearns, and is a colorful piece of American history, albeit, now fortunately gone forever. (EX+) Estimate: $1,500-$2,000

81. Sullivan-Corbett Official Program
On September 7, 1892, John L. Sullivan lost his Heavyweight Title and his claim that "he could lick any man alive" to James J. Corbett at the Olympic Club in New Orleans. An era of boxing changed that night when the brawling Sullivan lost to the scientific style of Corbett. This fight was the culmination of three nights of great championship boxing at the Olympic Club. Offered here is the extremely rare official program which covered those three great nights which included bouts between George Dixon and Jack Skelly, Jack McAuliffe and Billy Myer and of course Sullivan and Corbett. A beautiful color cover adorns this 42 page program which is loaded with pictures and stories on all the great fighters involved as well as the officials. There is some wear to the front and back covers, but overall this program is in extremely good condition. Historic and a must for any serious program collector. Estimate: $13,000-$15,000

82. Sullivan-Corbett Full Ticket
A beautiful full ticket to this great match held on September 7, 1892. This ticket has some foxing, but otherwise it is in NR-MT condition. One of boxing's most desirable tickets. Estimate: $2,250-$2,500

83. Sullivan-Corbett Full Ticket
Another beauty to this great glove contest between Sullivan and Corbett. Some foxing, but otherwise almost NR-MT. Estimate: $2,250-$2,500

84. Joe Louis 1933 Golden Gloves Trophy
Joe Louis is regarded by many to be the greatest Heavyweight Champion of all time. He held the title for longer than any man in boxing history. Among his many accomplishments in the ring were his spectacular victories over Carnera, Baer, Sharkey, Braddock, Schmeling, Walcott and Conn, all Champions in their own right. Louis was a fabulous amateur fighter as well. Offered here is his 1933 Golden Gloves Trophy awarded by the Detroit Free Press. This beautiful trophy stands 111/2" tall and has a slight bend at the top which does not detract from its natural beauty. On the face is inscribed, "Detroit Free Press Golden Gloves 1933 Awarded to Joe Louis 175 LBS Novice." This was given by Louis to his barber, Sylvester Touchstone, and includes a copy of a Louis letter to Touchstone along with a letter of authenticity from Mr. Touchstone's estate liquidator. Awards of great Champions are difficult to obtain. Estimate: $20,000-$25,000

85. Joe Louis Bronzed Shoe Worn In Second Schmeling Fight
In June 1936, Joe Louis suffered his first defeat as a professional at the hands of great German fighter, Max Schmeling. It was a bitter defeat for Louis in many ways. Schmeling was the pride of Nazi Germany, a country clearly on the rise and Schmeling's victory blended perfectly with the Nazi philosophy of Aryan Supremacy. A rematch was set in New York on June 22, 1938. Louis rose to the challenge and destroyed the German and the Nazi myths with a stunning first round knockout. Offered here is the shoe Louis wore on his right foot. This shoe was recognized for its importance at the time and was beautifully bronzed. Louis gave this to his friend and barber, Sylvester Touchstone. This shoe is offered with a copy of Louis' letter to his friend and a letter of authenticity from the estate liquidator of Mr. Touchstone's estate. The shoe is perfect in every detail right down to the laces. This may be the most important piece of boxing equipment from an important fight to ever be offered at public sale. Estimate: $25,000-$30,000

86. Sugar Ray Robinson Calendar & Autograph Display
A Christmas calendar given to Robinson by his handlers, Burton, Gainford and Towne features their likenesses along with Sugar Ray's in the center of 4 aces from a deck of cards. Entitled, "THE BEST CARDS IN BOXING", this is signed by all three handlers and mounted with a bold ink signature of Robinson. Framed to 16" x 29". Estimate: $500-$600

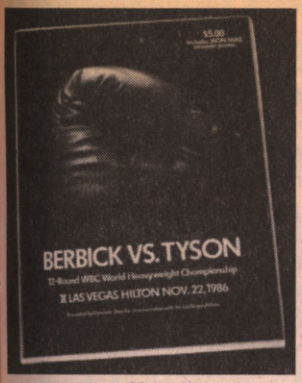
87. Dempsey-Gibbons Autographed Display
This display highlights the fight known as the "Sack of Shelby". A beautiful studio photo signed by Dempsey is framed with an action photo from the fight and a full unused ticket from the event which took place on July 4, 1923. 16" x 21" in pristine condition. Estimate: $350-$400

88. Police Gazette Supplement - Lot of 60
Incredible lot of black and white photographic supplements of the Police Gazette of fighters of the late 19th and early 20th century. Measure 10 1/2 x 15, these supplements are in overall EX condition. Lot includes Sullivan, Gans, Jackson and numerous other Champions and Challengers of the era. Estimate: $700-$800

89. Carmen Basilio - Lot of 3
The robe, shoes, and trunks worn by Basilio in exhibition at the Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, NY on June 5, 1992. The red trunks and blue robe include the Hall of Fame logo. Each item has been signed by Basilio. Comes with a letter of authenticity from the Boxing Hall of Fame. Estimate: $200-$300

Mastro & Steinbach

Atlantic City Fine Sports Auction - March 8, 1997



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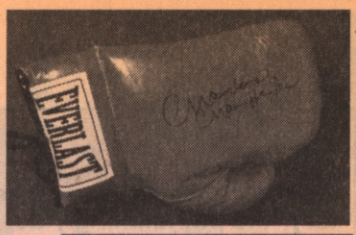

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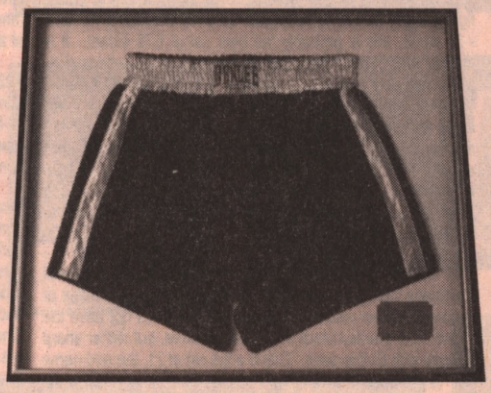

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90. Official Fight Program - Lot of 3
This group includes Tyson-Berbick (Tyson wins 1st Title), NR-MT; Holyfield-Douglas (Holyfield wins 1st Heavyweight Title), NR-MT; and Holmes-Leon Spinks (Holmes destroys an old rival), NR-MT. Estimate: $200-$300

91. Official Fight Ticket - Lot of 5
This group includes full, unused tickets for: Holmes-Witherspoon (5/20/83), Duran-Benitez (1/30/82), Arguello-Pryor II (9/9/83), Hearns-Duran (6/15/84), and Hagler-Duran (11/10/83). All in NR-MT condition. Beautiful! Estimate: $250-$350

92. Philadelphia Jack O'Brien Photographic Lot
Twenty-three stunning antique photos of this turn of the century Light Heavyweight Champion, his wife, brothers and other family members make up this collection. Includes two great cabinet photos of O'Brien when he was Champion and 4 great real photo postcards of him at different times of his life. Rare! Most come with original photographer's sleeves. Estimate: $600-$700

93. Muhammad Ali Autographed Photo
A boldly signed original black and white 11 x 14 photo depicting Ali holding a child with his back turned. Taken in 1964 in Miami, it shows his famous jacket with the statement "Bear Huntin'" on the back (a reference to his upcoming fight with Liston). Bold "Muhammad Ali" signature. Classic. Estimate: $150-$175

94. Muhammad Ali Fight Program - Lot of 4
This group includes: Ali-Frazier I (Official Neiman) EX+, Ali-London (NR-MT), Ali Spinks II (VG), and Clay-Cooper I (EX). Desirable lot of his important fights. Estimate: $500-$600

95. Sugar Ray Robinson & Joe Louis Autographed Display
A small card, signed boldly in ink by both Louis and Sugar Ray, is framed with an Army photo of Louis and an insert photo of Robinson. Neatly framed and mounted on 101/2 x 13 wooden plaque. Estimate: $125-$150

96. Sullivan-Corbett Bound Newspaper Volume
A great lot of bound newspapers of the New Orleans Times Democrat for the period September 1, 1892 to December 31, 1892. Complete pre and post fight coverage of the great Sullivan-Corbett fight which took place on September 7, 1892. The volume of September 8th gives great coverage of the fight in complete detail and has detailed drawings of both fighters. This is a must for any Sullivan-Corbett collector. The fight took place in New Orleans so the coverage here is first hand. Very rare! Condition varies and some volumes have some chipping, but overall this is in good condition for its age. It is fragile. Estimate: $500-$750

97. Jack Johnson-Jim Jeffries Photographic Negatives
Thirty-two old negatives of scenes primarily from pre-fight training for their epic battle. The negatives are all in surprisingly good condition and are still in their original sleeves. Some superb shots of both fighters can be found here. Taken by Ed Moss of the N.Y. Evening Sun in 1910 at the training sites of the two fighters. Offered with a letter from Mr. Moss written in 1943 in which he enclosed the negatives to a collector. Extremely rare and important as they include seldom seen shots of the fighters. Estimate: $2,500-$3,000

98. Rocky Lockridge Fight Worn Robe & Trunks
Gold with red trim, satin finish robe and trunks obtained directly from this former Junior Lightweight Champion. The name Rocky appears on the waistband of the trunks and on the back of the robe. Accompanied by a large color photo showing Lockridge in the trunks. Estimate: $300-$400

99. Boxing License Group
This lot totals 35 different pieces including licenses for such notables as Al Weill, Charley Goldman, Walter Jacobs and a signed I.D. of Marty Servo. Lot includes licenses, business cards and I.D.s. Estimate: $150-$200

100. Joe Frazier Autographed Glove - Lot of 2
Two separate red and white gloves, each signed by Joe Frazier, Marvis Frazier and on one glove, Bert Cooper. Nine autographs in all. Estimate: $75-$100

101. Autographed Glove - Lot of 2
Two white leather gloves signed by various Champions and Challengers including: Ali (smudged), Jack "Kid" Berg (light), Barry McGuigan, Terry Downes, John Conteh, Ray Leonard, and Henry Cooper. Over 50 signatures in all. Estimate: $100-$150

102. Champions Autographed Glove
Five Champions have boldly signed this red Everlast glove including: Ruben Olivares, Sugar Ramos, Pipino Cuevas, Jose Napoles, and Alfanso Zamora. Estimate: $50-$100

103. Marvin Hagler Autographed Glove
Bold, black sharpie signature on red Everlast leather glove, signed "Marvelous Marvin Hagler". Estimate: $50-$75

104. Ken Norton Autographed Glove
Bold, black sharpie signature of the former Heavyweight Champion on a red Everlast glove. Estimate: $50-$75

105. Roberto Duran Fight Worn Trunks
Beautiful red velour with white trim worn by Duran in his fight with Josef Nsubuga on January 13, 1980. These trunks feature a wide, white waistband and on the lower left leg the word "Duran" is printed in white. Offered with a letter of authenticity from Felicidad Duran, the wife of Roberto. Great companion to the robe also offered in this sale. Estimate: $2,500-$3,000

106. Rocky Marciano Fight Worn Trunks
Black, Benlee trunks with white trim used by Rocky in his fight with Tiger Lowry on November 13, 1950. Rocky Marciano remains one of boxing's great legends. His record of 49-0 still remains intact today as the all time record of any Heavyweight Champion. Equipment of this great fighter is extremely rare and these trunks are one of the few items to be offered in public sale. Obtained from the Marciano family, they come with a letter of authenticity from the Champ's brother, Louis Marciano. Estimate: $12,500-$15,000

107. Joe Louis Fight Trunks
Phenomenal fight trunks of one of boxing's greatest champions, Joe Louis. Louis held the Heavyweight Crown longer than any man in boxing history. Here is a rare offering of trunks worn by this great, professionally framed. The trunks are purple satin with blue trim. On the waistband there is an Everlast label which includes the logo, "Made Expressly For Joe Louis". On the lower left leg there are the initials, "JL". The consignor obtained these from a business associate of Joe Louis and the trunks are offered with a letter of authenticity explaining how they were obtained. Important and rare! Estimate: $10,000-$15,000

108. Joe Louis Autographed Fight Gloves
These gloves are the companion to the Louis trunks offered in this sale and were obtained from the same source. Twelve ounce Everlast gloves which are circa 1940's. The gloves have been signed by Joe Louis, but the signature is light. These gloves match the exact style and label worn by Louis in several fights, but we cannot identify the specific fight for these gloves. Gloves worn by this great Champion are extremely difficult to find. A great collector's lot. Estimate: $8,000-$10,000

109. Boxing Cards & Flip Book
A nice lot consisting of a deck of James Jeffries playing cards in their original case picturing the Champ on the cover (VG+) and a boxing flip book from 1897 (EX). Unusual mementos of boxing's early era. Estimate: $250-$300

110. Dempsey-Carpentier Original Glass Negatives
Twenty original glass negatives from the famous battle for the Heavyweight Championship between Jack Dempsey and Georges Carpentier which took place on July 2, 1921 in Jersey City, NJ. Billed as the first "Million Dollar Gate", Dempsey defeated the game Frenchman by K.O. in round 4. These perfect condition negatives depict much of the ring action including the famous knockout. Sold with a full set of prints made from the negatives. Historic and very rare. Estimate: $2,000-$2,500

The Steve Asch Collection of Fine Boxing Cards

Without a doubt, Steve Asch was the most meticulous collector of Boxing cards in our hobby's history. He painstakingly assembled each of his sets with an eye for ultimate perfection. The end result is that we are proudly auctioning here a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to acquire some of the finest boxing sets ever publicly offered. It would not be unusual for Steve to have replaced cards in some of these sets a dozen times to constantly inch forward on condition. The amount of money it would require to duplicate some of these sets, even if it were possible, would be astronomical. If you collect boxing cards, this is an offering not to be missed, another may never come along again!

111. The Finest Set of 1948 Leaf Boxing Ever Assembled
R401-5 1948 Leaf "Knock Out" gum set of 49. Absolute blazing condition, this set took years to assemble with special attention paid to incredible centering and snow white borders. #1 Dempsey (NR-MT), #17 Johnson (NR-MT), #48 Louis (NR-MT to MT), #64 Robinson (NR-MT), #101 Sullivan (Mint), #102 LaMotta (NR-MT to MINT+), overall this set is gorgeous Near Mint or better condition with cards ranging up to Mint. An opportunity to buy the best of anything is an opportunity which should not be missed! This white paper variety is impeccable and a lifetime of work goes into this pristine, well-centered set. Estimate: $2,500-$3,500

112. 1948/49 Leaf Boxing Wrapper
Proudly displaying "Knock Out Bubble Gum with Pictures" on the wrapper, this Leaf Gum green and red beauty will make a fantastic display with your set. Issued in 1949 during the heyday of Leaf cards, it is extremely scarce and in EX-MT condition. Estimate: $200-$300

113. The Ultimate Set of Topps Ringside
R411 1951 Topps Ringside complete set of 96 cards. Meticulously assembled over a period of many years with constant upgrading, thru a dozen complete sets and hundreds of Near Mint singles. This is now the ultimate set ever made available. Features #1 Lesnevich (NR-MT to MINT) the best one in the hobby! #3 LaMotta (NR-MT), #32 Marciano (NR-MT to MT+) dead centered! #43 Robinson (NR-MT), #49 Murphy (NR-MT, o/c 70/30), #88 Joe Louis (NR-MT). Awesome set has a couple EX-MT, otherwise is overall NR-MT that includes cards in Mint. This lot also includes a Near Mint 1¢ wrapper. Estimate: $4,000-$5,000

114. 1951 Ringside Gum 5¢ Wrapper
The vast majority of packs that were sold on this issue were of course the much more affordable 1¢ variety. However for the big spender, Topps did make a 5¢ pack and locating this wrapper today is nearly impossible. This large 5 x 73/4 beauty is in EX-MT condition. Estimate: $200-$300

115. The World's Rarest Boxing Set
The year is 1941, with a growing American presence in the Phillippines since the Spanish war, American Sweets of Manila issued the first series of its "Knockout Bubble Gum", with English backs and directed to the Anglo audience. In December, the Japanese declared war and with the conquering of the Phillippines, this and everything American was halted in production and destroyed. This is the one and only set extant and beyond even that, no other individual cards have ever been seen! Complete at 40 cards, all unique, featured fighters such as Max Baer, Kid Chocolate, Ad Wolgast, Primo Carnera, Mickey Walker, Gene Tunney, Jim Corbett, Joe Louis, Benny Leonard, and many more. Vivid solid colors, overall EX-MT to NR-MT. Estimate: $5,000-$7,000

116. A French Playing Card Set
This incredibly rare deck of 52 cards and 2 rule cards features photographs of the four leading figures in each weight division. Made in the 1920's, it is loaded with greats like Dempsey, Firp, Wills, Carpentier, Tunney, Siki, Leonard and Mickey Walker. Also some historic Champs like Corbett are included. Beautifully done, this set transcends just card collecting and is a great piece of Boxing memorabilia. EX-MT condition. Estimate: $1,000-$1,500

117. N310 1894 Mayo Cut Plug Set
One of the few N310 1894 Mayo Tobacco Boxing Sets ever assembled is offered here complete at 35 cards. A fantastic representation of 19th century boxers, this set features such all-time greats as Corbett, Fitzsimmons, Godfrey, Peter Jackson, Jake Kilrain, Jack McAuliffe, John L. Sullivan, and many others. Here is truly an opportunity to acquire one of the rare sets of the hobby! A few cards Fair, overall this set is Good to Very Good. Estimate: $1,500-$2,000

118. E75/E76 c.1910 Prizefighter Caramels
This lot consists of both sets of 20 each of the quaint prizefighter cards issued by American Caramel around 1910. E75 - 20 cards, this is probably the best set of E75 extant. It is loaded with great boxers like Corbett (EX-MT), Jeffries (EX-MT), Johnson (tiny corner crease, o/w a beauty), Ketchell (EX-MT), and Sullivan (NR-MT). Overall, even though there are a few VG or VG-EX cards, this set is still around EX-MT and for this issue exemplary condition. E76 - Also a 20 card set, it is very scarce in complete set form and features a load of greats like Sullivan, Corbett, Nelson and the original Joe Walcott. Good to Very Good and a very tough set. Estimate: $1,000-$1,500

119. E79 c.1910 27 Scrappers
E79 c.1910 27 Scrappers issued by Philadelphia Caramel Company, complete set of 21. Unlike the usual Baseball or Boxing Caramel issues of the era, this set does not have the bland color painted black and white pictures, but rather sharp images with lifelike color. This is a full set of 21, the odd name "27" is because of two fighters on one card on several cards. Full sets of these E79's never turn up and this opportunity should not be missed. A couple of cards are VG, overall however, this set is EX to EX-MT and in a condition rarely, if ever, seen. Estimate: $500-$750

120. E125 1910 American Caramel–Jeffries
This is quite possibly the rarest 20th century Boxing card issued in America. It was manufactured by the American Caramel Company with their "Big Fight" Caramels. Done in conjunction with the "Great White Hope" fight July 4, 1910 between Jeffries and Jack Johnson, American Caramel issued six die-cut large cards of the two fighters. This one of Jeffries has a couple light creases and is missing the stand up tag on the right. Overall VG, and extremely scarce. Estimate: $500-$700

121. T9 1911 Turkey Red Cigarettes Set
A seldom seen complete set of all 25 Turkey Red Boxers featuring large 53/4 x 8 beautiful color paintings of the champions of the day. The set features Jack Johnson, Abe Attell, Jeffries, Battling Nelson, Sam Langford, Stanley Ketchell, Joe Jeanette, and others! Set is in Fair to Very Good condition. Estimate: $1,000-$1,500

122. T218 c.1912 Champion Athletes and Prize Fighters
Complete at 153 cards, this is the finest set of T218 Champion Athletes and Prize Fighters ever offered publicly. The set features many early Olympic medal winners, aviators, six early golf greats, billiard and pool Champs and most of all Champion Boxers. Fantastic color paintings of 62 cards featuring Jack Johnson and Jim Jeffries - two each, Gans, Jeannette, Ketchell, Langford, Nelson, Wolgast and more. Overall in blazing Near Mint condition. This set took an incredible length of time to meticulously assemble and has many cards better than Near Mint and ranging up to Mint. Estimate: $5,000-$6,000

123. T219 c.1910/12 Champion Pugilists
A near set of 48 (of 50) of the very scarce T219 Champion Pugilist cards issued by Honest Long Cut or Miners Extra Smoking Tobacco. This set follows the similar designs of T218 but in a smaller format. It is loaded with great boxers like Jeannette, Ketchell, Langford, Nelson, Wolgast and many more. This lot is in incredible condition for this issue (it was packed in loose scrap tobacco and thus easily creased) with only around 8 cards creased or damaged. The remainder of this set is in generally unseen EX-MT condition. Estimate: $1,500-$2,000

124. T220 c.1910 Champion Prize Fighter Set
Artistically superb with an original "outdoors and in training" look to most of the portraits in the set, this T220 c.1910 Mecca Cigarette issue is complete at 50 cards. The entire history of 19th and early 20th century boxing unfolds before you with Jim Corbett, the original Jack Dempsey, Fitzsimmons, Gans, the Sullivan/Kilrain fight, Jem Mace, Heenan, Peter Jackson, John L. Sullivan and more. It is in choice Near Mint condition overall. This is the finest T220 set ever offered publicly. No other set has ever come up in the market to rival the condition of this one. Estimate: $1,800-$2,500

125. T225-1 c.1910 Prize Fighter Series
T225-1 c.1910 Prize Fighter Series tobacco set of 25 cards. Miniature oil paintings, these beautifully done cards feature all-time greats like Jeffries, Ketchell, McFarland, Nelson, and many more. This is overall in clean, EX-MT condition with some cards Near Mint. Estimate: $750-$1,000

126. T225-2 c. 1911 Prize Fighter Series 2
Incredibly tough to find any, this is one of the few existing complete sets of all 25 T225-2 c.1911 Prize Fighter second series of 25. Issued by the Khedival Tobacco Company of New York, and unlike the series 1 cards with a wider range of tobacco brands, this was a one company, limited to a small section of New York City, producer. Featured are many Champions like Loughery, Jack O'Brien, Young Erne, and others. This set has a few VG, but is overall VG-EX to EX-MT. Estimate: $1,500-$2,000

127. 1911 Scissors Cigarettes Set of 36
The backs are as gorgeous on these cards as the fronts, the picture in bright red the unique package of "Scissors" brand cigarettes, and are a blazing advertising card in their own right with the boxers name and biography. The set features such turn-of-the-century greats as Tommy Burns, Joe Gans, Peter Jackson, Joe Jeannette, Jeffries, Jack Johnson, Langford and many more. This is among the finest cards for realistic pictures and sharp colors ever produced! Set is overall EX-MT condition and complete at 36. Estimate: $750-$1,000

128. c.1938 Cosgrave's Brewery
As far as a color litho set goes, this is it! Around 1938 Cosgrave's Brewery issued a set of six 12 5/8 square color litho cardboard display pieces. Offered here as a never seen complete set, the 6 cards are 1-Heenan/Sayers, 2-Sullivan/Kilrain, 3-Jeffries/Sharkey, 4-Corbett/Fitzsimmons, 5-Tunney/Dempsey, 6-Braddock/Louis. All would be absolutely perfect for framing. Light residue from previous framing along the edges, otherwise these beauties are in great shape. A Canadian issue. Estimate: $1,000-$1,500

129. V137 1923-24 Willards Chocolates Set
A complete set of 56 V137 1923-24 Willards Chocolates Boxing cards. These slim 1 3/8 x 3 1/8 beauties feature a host of great boxers from the "Roaring 20's". Dempsey, Firpo, Gibbons, Leonard, Stribling, Villa, Willard, plus some earlier Champs. Very tough to assemble, this set is in outstanding Near Mint to Mint condition overall. Estimate: $1,500-$2,000

130. Ogdens Cigarettes - Four Sets
For turn-of-the-century cards, the color and definition is utterly fantastic! Issued around 1900/1915 this lot consists of 3 color sets of cards: 1908 Pugilists and Wrestlers series 1 of 50 cards, 1909 series 2 of 25 cards, and c.1915 Boxers a series of 50. Also, the black and white boxer cards (17) from the Ogdens Photograph series c.1900. Loaded with great fighters, there are 3 Sullivan's, Carpentier, Jeannette, Langford, Willard, Papke, Jeffries, Fitzsimmons, Gans, Jack Johnson, and many more. Some cards VG-EX, but overall this lot is EX-MT. Estimate: $800-$1,000

131. English Boxing Cards
A large group of English boxing sets and near sets consisting of the following: 1936/37 Topical Photocards, the 8 in their set include J. Louis; 1935 Sporting Events and Stars, the 7 in that set include J. Louis; 1929/30 Sporting Champion (41) by Phillips w/ Dempsey and Tunney; Favourite Magnums c.1915 set of 25 with Jack Johnson; 1935 Boxing Lessons set of 25 by Cope Bros. Also, Monarchs of the Ring, a 1923 issue by "Union Jack" with Dempsey, and "Rising Boxing Stars", a 1922 15 card issue from "Boys Friend". Overall this lot is EX-MT to NR-MT condition. Estimate: $600-$800

END OF STEVE ASCH COLLECTION

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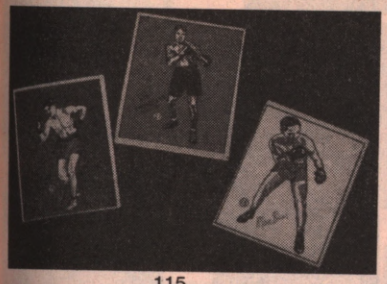
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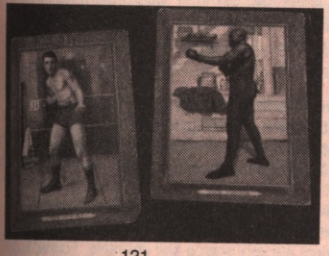
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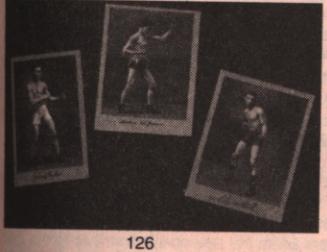
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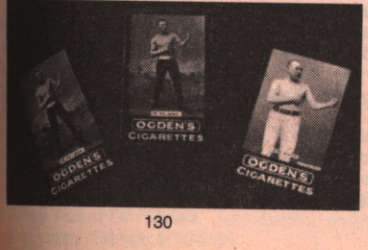

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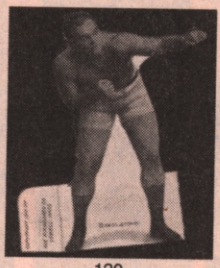
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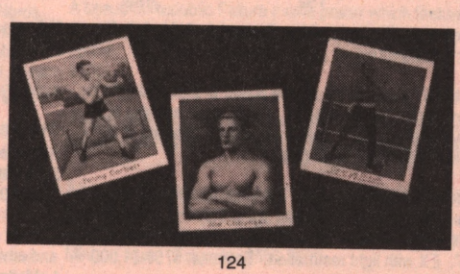
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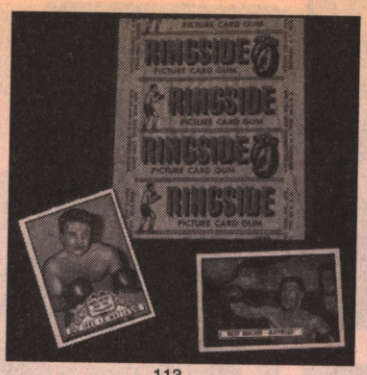

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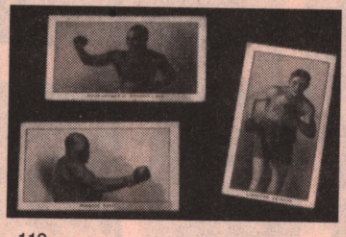
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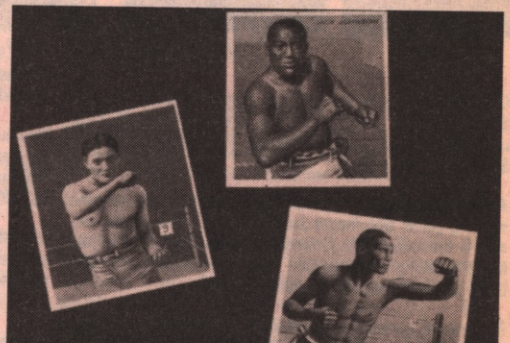
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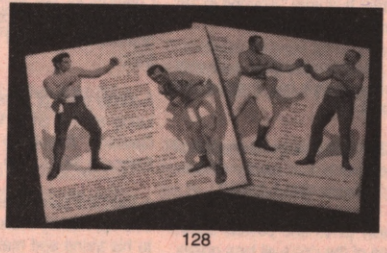
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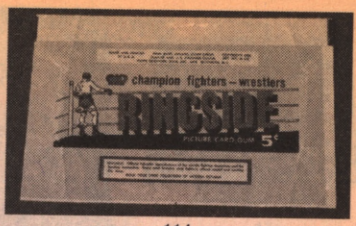

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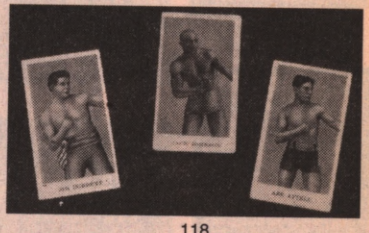
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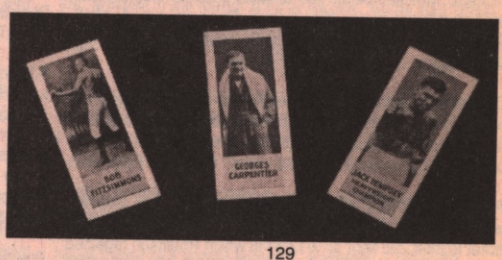
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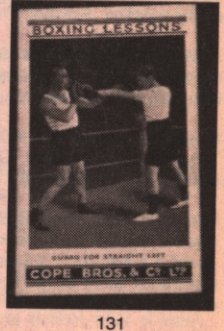

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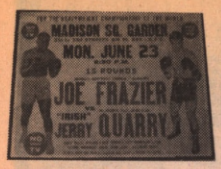

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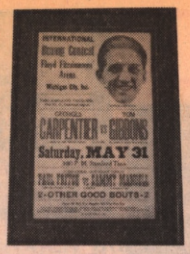

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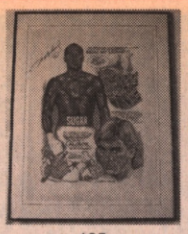
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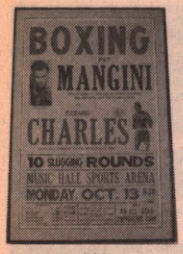

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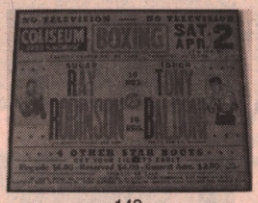

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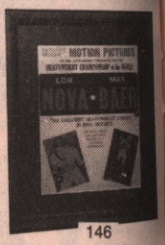

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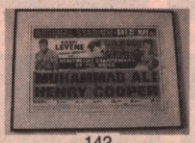

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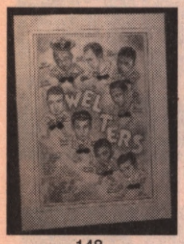

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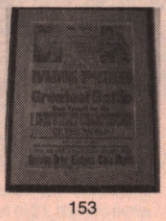
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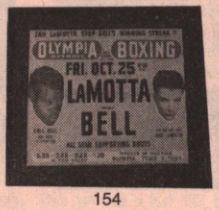

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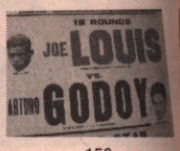

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132. Joe Frazier-Jerry Quarry Fight Poster
Classic heavyweight title fight from June 23, 1968 at Madison Square Garden. Both fighters are pictured on this 22 x 28, cardboard, on-site poster. Framed. EX+. Estimate: $500-$600

133. Georges Carpentier-Tommy Gibbons Fight Poster
A vintage 1920's on-site poster to the important fight between two ring giants who fought Jack Dempsey. This on-site version is the rarer which pictures the great Carpentier. From May 31, 1924 in Michigan City, Indiana. Framed to 20" x 26". EX+. Scarce! Estimate: $1,000-$1,250

134. Jack Johnson-James Jeffries Display
Features an extremely rare sepia photo taken at the signing for their history making event. This photo is highlighted with hand drawn calligraphy to identify prominent individuals and participants including: Johnson, Jeffries, Attell, Gleason & Rickard. Mounted below this fabulous photo is a full, unused, illustrated ticket to the fight held in Reno on July 4, 1910. Gorgeous in triple matting and black frame. 22" x 22" in NR-MT condition. Estimate: $2,000-$2,500

135. Sugar Ray Leonard-Donny Lalonde Artwork
Original art used for the storyboard from the center page of the program for their fight. Magnificent color depictions of both fighters dominate this 20" x 30" framed masterpiece. Signed by artist, Charles McGill in 1988. Mint. Estimate: $700-$800

136. Robinson-Turpin Autographed Display
A beautiful, vintage ink signature of Sugar Ray is mounted with an action photo, dressing room pass, and full, unused ticket to their 2nd fight on 9/12/51 in which Robinson regained the title he had lost to Turpin earlier that year. Framed to 16" x 27" in NR-MT condition. Estimate: $300-$400

137. Jack Dempsey Studio Photo
Gorgeous Hollywood style 11 x 14 Apeda photo of a 23 year old Dempsey in 3 piece suit and bowler style hat. Framed and in Mint condition. Estimate: $100-$125

138. James J. Corbett Lucky Strikes Broadside
A vintage ad piece from the 1920's with a large illustration of Corbett complete with his endorsement of Lucky Strikes. Beautifully framed to 16" x 20". Estimate: $400-$500

139. Tony Canzoneri Color Tinted Photo
A beautiful photo finished in flesh tones and pastels shows Tony in tank top and trunks. One of the ring's all time greats. Framed to 27" x 31". NR-MT. Estimate: $300-$350

140. Louis-Schmeling I Autographed Display
Features a photo of a young Louis in training, with an ink signature of Joe under it, the famous photo of Louis being counted out, a signed photo of Schmeling and a full, unused, illustrated ticket from their first fight. Framed to 16" x 24". EX+ overall. Estimate: $500-$600

141. Ezzard Charles-Pat Mangini Fight Poster
A rare poster of Charles in his 2nd pro fight as a Middleweight. A nice illustration of a young Charles who went all the way to the Heavyweight Championship. Framed to 21" x 31", EX+. Estimate: $500-$600

142. Muhammad Ali-Henry Cooper II Poster
This illustrated beauty is the on-site poster to their 2nd fight for the Heavyweight Title on May 21, 1966. Ali is referred to as, "Formerly Cassius Clay". Extremely colorful, framed to 20" x 25", NR-MT. Estimate: $500-$600

143. Sugar Ray Robinson-Tony Baldoni Fight Poster
Beautiful waist up illustrations of both fighters adorn this scarce on-site poster featuring an aging Ray Robinson. Ray still had enough left to K.O. the hometown hero. Framed to 22" x 28". EX with light restoration. Estimate: $750-$1,000

144. George Foreman vs. Five Fight Poster
The legend of "Big George" was born this night in Toronto when he took on five fighters in, yes, five 3 round fights. Beautifully illustrated poster of a muscle bound Foreman and his 5 opponents. Okay trivia buffs, they were: Polite, Kirkman, Daniels, Judge, and Johnson, 4/26/75. Framed to 14" x 22", NR-MT. Estimate: $500-$600

145. Carlos Monzon-Emile Griffith Fight Poster
A handsome, artistically illustrated lithograph from their fight at Luna Park, Argentina on 9/25/71. Framed and NR-MT. Estimate: $500-$600

146. Max Baer-Lou Nova Fight Poster
Brilliant illustrations of Baer and Nova are featured on this poster advertising the viewing of the match. The winner was to fight Louis. 6/1/39. Framed to 20" x 25", EX+. Estimate: $400-$500

147. Jersey Joe Walcott Original Ring Cartoon Art
Prepared by Ted Carroll for the January 1951 issue of Ring, this art features Walcott and his fortunes in bouts with several opponents. Framed to 18" x 24", NR-MT. Estimate: $400-$500

148. The Welterweights Original Ring Cartoon Art
A classy piece of art prepared for the 1952 Ring Magazine featuring all the great Welterweights of the day including Kid Gavilan. Beautifully framed to 18" x 24", by Ted Carroll. Estimate: $400-$500

149. Mickey Walker Autographed Original Cartoon Art
A beautiful piece made by Burris Jenkins featuring the great Champ, Mickey Walker. Walker inscribed and presented this to his friend and manager, Bill Duffy. Signed by Jenkins as well. Framed to 24" x 26", NR-MT. Estimate: $600-$700

150. Sugar Ray Robinson-Gene Fullmer Fight Poster
On-site poster for their 4th and last fight on 4/4/61 won by Fullmer. Beautiful full body illustrations of both fighters against a red background. Framed to 19" x 27", EX+. Estimate: $700-$800

151. Original Cartoon Art of Phil Berube
Five beautiful pieces of cartoon art have been mounted and framed including: Carnera, LaBarba, Midget Wolgast, Cleto Locatelli and Tunney. 27" x 29", NR-MT. Estimate: $350-$400

152. Wolgast-Nelson Fight Film Poster
This classic advertises the fight films from their battle on 2/22/1910. Beautiful illustrations of both fighters against an orange background. Framed to 28" x 40", EX+. Estimate: $700-$800

153. Wolgast-Nelson Fight Film Poster
This is the rarest version advertising their battle on 2/22/1910. Illustrated with photos of both fighters and entitled, "Sid Hester Presents That Most Wonderful Contest". It was! Framed to 24" x 30". EX with light restoration. Estimate: $800-$1,000

154. Jake LaMotta-O'Neill Bell Fight Poster
Classic on-site poster featuring head shots of both fighters and advertising their battle at the Detroit Olympia on 10/25/46. LaMotta posters are very scarce and desirable. Framed to 30" x 35", EX+. Estimate: $1,500-$2,000

155. Autographed Display Lot of 3
Barney Ross signature mounted with photo and full, unused ticket from Armstrong-Ross (5/26/38). Manuel Ortiz signed photo mounted with a full, unused ticket to the Ortiz-Salica fight (8/7/42). Fidel LaBarba signed 12x15 photo. Three separately framed pieces commemorating three greats. Estimate: $250-$300

156. Joe Louis-Arturo Godoy On-Site Poster
A classic 3 sheet poster from Yankee Stadium advertising the Heavyweight Championship fight between the "Brown Bomber", Joe Louis and Arturo Godoy. Beautiful head shots of both fighters adorn this rare on-site from their fight on June 20, 1940 won by Louis by T.K.O. Any Louis on-site poster is rare, but particularly in this size. Linen backed and ready for framing. EX+. Estimate: $3,000-$4,000

157. Oscar DeLaHoya Autographed Artwork -
A nice print of Oscar in full fight pose wearing his Olympic Gold Medal. Signed by the artist, Hernandez and Oscar DeLaHoya. Numbered print, Mint condition. 18" x 24". Estimate: $100-$150

158. Dick Tiger-Jose Torres Fight Poster
A beautiful, 1 sheet, on-site poster from Madison Square Garden for their fight of May 16, 1967 in which Torres lost in his bid to regain the Light Heavyweight Championship he had lost to Tiger the year prior. Linen backed and ready for framing. EX+. Estimate: $700-$800

159. Jack Johnson Autographed Photo
An interesting 8 x 10 sepia tone collage photo featuring Jack Johnson and fighters Packey O'Gatty and Young Zulu Kid. A bold Johnson signature and inscription to Packey O'Gatty. Some edge faults, but overall very nice with a 10 signature. Estimate: $1,000-$1,500

160. Boxing Autographed Program
The blank back of a dinner program held in 1938 has been signed by 9 fighters including Matt Wells, Ted "Kid" Lewis, and a rare Pedlar Palmer. Bold pencil signatures of all nine. Estimate: $200-$300

Mastro & Steinbach

Atlantic City Fine Sports Auction - March 8, 1997

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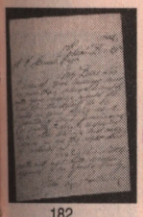
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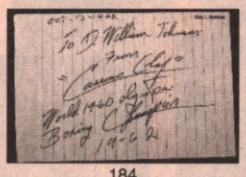
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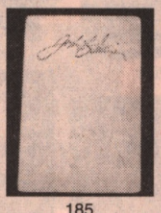
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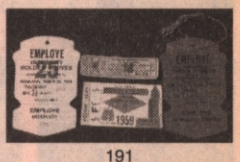
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161. Evander Holyfield Program Lot of 6
Nice lot includes his pro debut, 3 Holyfield-Foreman, Holyfield-Holmes, Holyfield-Foreman (variation). All EX+ to NR-MT. Estimate: $100-$150

162. Boxing Program Lot of 46
A great lot featuring some of the great fights in recent years including: Tyson-Spinks, Mercer-Morrison, Leonard-Norris, Chavez-Taylor I, Ali-Foreman (C/C), Hearns-Roldan (with full ticket), Hagler-Hearns, Hearns-Duran, and Holmes-Witherspoon. A fantastic lot featuring many of the greats of the modern era. Most are NR-MT to MT. Estimate: $500-$600

163. Heavyweight Champions Autograph Lot of 11
A fabulous autograph photo lot of 11 of the all-time greats including: Max Baer, Joe Louis (on reverse), Floyd Patterson, James Braddock, Leon Spinks, Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, Ken Norton, Max Schmeling, Jack Sharkey, and Jack Dempsey. Most are 8 x 10's with bold signatures. Estimate: $600-$700

164. Oscar DeLaHoya Autograph Photo Lot of 2
Two beautiful color 8 x 10 shots of Oscar posing in fight form and in one holding his Olympic Medal. Letter of authenticity from Jim Stinson. Estimate: $75-$100

165. Boxing Autograph Lot of 33
A great lot consisting of signed photos, mostly 8 x 10's of some fabulous champions and challengers including: Ray Leonard, Roberto Duran (4 different), Arguello, Norton, Foster, Napoles, Hurricane Carter, Buster Douglas, and many more. A great lot. Estimate: $250-$300

166. Boxing Autograph Lot of 43
Forty-three signed photos of former greats, many now deceased, compile this beautiful lot. Included are: Braddock, Pete Herman, Ray Robinson, Zale, Jack Sharkey, Dempsey (2), Graziano (2), Conn (2), Moore, Saddler (2), Lesnevich (2), LaMotta, Ambers, and many more. Most are 8 x 10's. Estimate: $700-$800

167. Boxing Autograph Lot of 151
This large lot consists of signed photos of, for the most part, foreign fighters and a number of Champions. Most are 3 x 5 photos depicting the fighters in full pose. Included are: Peter Kane, Freddie Mills, Dempsey, Schmeling, Henry Cooper, Fullmer, Jackie Berg, Billy Soose, Young Corbett III, Ambers, Bruno, Conteh, and Magri. Estimate: $300-$400

168. Postcard Lot of 22
Mostly done in the 20's, this lot consists of many great Champs of the era including: Dempsey, Flowers, Levinsky, and Dundee among others. VG overall. Estimate: $50-$100

169. Holyfield-Tyson Poster
Illustrated 1 sheet poster to their first and postponed fight of 11/8/91. Mint condition on linen. Estimate: $75-$100

170. Joe Louis-Primo Carnera Poster
A tremendous vintage 1 sheet fight poster advertising the viewing of the fight films from this classic battle. Great illustrated head shots of both fighters. Mint condition on linen ready for framing. Estimate: $700-$800

171. Muhammad Ali "The Greatest" Poster
A beautiful graphic 1 sheet poster for the movie which starred the Champ in 1977. Great shot of Ali. Mint on linen. Estimate: $150-$175

172. Billy Conn-The Pittsburgh Kid Poster
A beautiful Republic Picture movie poster which featured Billy Conn. Conn is center stage on this illustrated 1 sheet original poster. EX with a few minor edge faults. Estimate: $400-$500

173. Ali-Norton Poster
This illustrated poster advertises the fight film viewing of their classic battle of 9/28/76. Mint on linen. Estimate: $200-$300

174. Joe Louis-Jersey Joe Walcott Poster
A 1 sheet graphically illustrated poster with great depictions of both fighters advertising the viewing of the fight films of this struggle between two men who held the Heavyweight Title. Mint on linen. Estimate: $500-$600

175. Muhammad Ali Autographed Olympic Photo
No one will forget Ali lighting the torch in Atlanta. Here is a gorgeous 16 x 20 photo of the event boldly signed by "The Greatest" in gold pen. Offered with a picture of Ali signing the photo and a letter of authenticity for the signature. Estimate: $300-$400

176. Muhammad Ali & Wilt Chamberlain Autographed Photo
A 16 x 20 studio shot of the two squaring off on Wide World of Sports which has been boldly signed by both in blue sharpie. The Ali autograph comes with a letter of authenticity. Chamberlain signed it at the same show. Timber! Estimate: $400-$500

177. Ali With The Beatles Signed Photo
This photo is from the gym in Miami where the Beatles visited Ali. A large black and white 20 x 24 shot of Ali standing over the boys from England. Bold Ali signature in blue sharpie. Comes with letter of authenticity. Estimate: $200-$250

178. Muhammad Ali Autographed Photo
A beautiful, color, action 8 x 10 from first Liston fight boldly signed in blue sharpie by Ali. Estimate: $75-$100

179. Ali A/K/A Cassius Clay Autographed Speed Bag
A red Everlast speed bag boldly signed in black sharpie, "Muhammad Ali A/K/A Cassius Clay". Mint. Estimate: $275-$300

180. Muhammad Ali-Larry Holmes Poster Lot of 2
This lot is comprised of the two on-site posters for the battle between Ali and Holmes. One is the beautiful black background, LeRoy Neiman poster, the second is the Caesars Palace poster which also features Neiman drawings of the fighters. Both are EX+. Estimate: $400-$450

181. Jack Johnson Autographed Photo
A bold ink signature of Johnson on an 8 x 10 photo showing him in his older years still looking spry and dapper and sporting that famous Johnson smile. Black and white, trimmed on one edge not affecting the photo. Estimate: $1,750-$2,000

182. John L. Sullivan Hand Written Letter
A rare one page letter written by the hands that once established the boast, "I can lick any man in the world". Written on Christmas Eve in 1902, Sullivan speaks of the strength of our nation, "because we are the right kind of material". Features a bold signature, "John L. Sullivan". In almost Mint condition. Estimate: $2,500-$3,000

183. Rocky Marciano Signed Check
A bold ink signature signed, "Rocky Marciano" on a Rocco Marchegiano (his real name) check written on May 13, 1965. Some soiling which does not affect the signature. A bold signature of a bold Champion. Estimate: $500-$600

184. Cassius Clay Autograph
A vintage, large and bold ink signature of then Cassius Clay. Inscribed, "From Cassius Clay World 19-60 Olympic Boxing Champion 19-62". A rare offering of his early signature. You will not find a better example. Written on lined paper in 1962. Estimate: $1,500-$1,750

185. John L. Sullivan Autographed Cabinet Card
A "dead mint" bold ink signature on the back of an antique cabinet card of Sullivan done by Wendt. Sullivan is hearty and dressed in the formal attire of his era. Some light fading to the image. One of the best signatures of Sullivan we have seen. Estimate: $1,500-$2,000

186. Joe Louis Autographed Check
A NY Yankee payroll check drawn to the former Heavyweight Champ and boldly signed on the back in blue ink by both Joe Louis and his wife, Martha. Estimate: $300-$400

187. Joe Louis-Max Baer Official Fight Program
A magnificent color graphic cover adorns the program between these two greats in a fight which helped launch Louis toward the title. Some writing on back cover, but otherwise a NR-MT copy of a scarce program. Estimate: $225-$250

188. Mike Tyson Pro Debut Program
The official program for his debut against Hector Mercedes in the first of many K.O. victories. Has a light stain, otherwise NR-MT and scarce. Estimate: $500-$600

189. Rocky Marciano Hand Written Letters
Two 2 page hand written letters on hotel stationery to his wife to be. Includes some content on training and upcoming bouts. One includes a bold Rocky Marciano signature. In pencil. Estimate: $600-$700

190. Sugar Ray Robinson Golden Gloves Program
Intercity competition held in Chicago on March 29, 1939. Includes a nice photo of a 19 year old Ray Robinson. Very scarce in EX condition. Estimate: $400-$450

191. Cassius Clay Amateur Ticket Lot of 4
A rare lot of tickets to events which included the young Cassius Clay. Includes: U.S. Olympic Finals full ticket of May 18, 1960 (NR-MT), Golden Gloves stubless ticket of March 11, 1959, Golden Gloves Full Employee Pass for February 29, 1960 (EX+), and a Golden Gloves Employee Pass for March 25, 1959 (EX+). Estimate: $800-$1,000

Mastro & Steinbach

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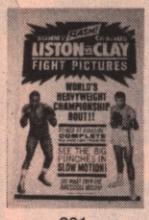

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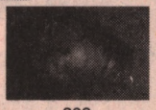
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192.Joe Louis Suitcase
The personal suitcase of the "Brown Bomber" with his name embossed on the top. From the estate of his personal barber. Interesting personal effect from the man who sent his opponents packing. Estimate: $250-$300

193. Rocky Marciano 1948 Golden Gloves Championship Belt
This is the belt which was given to the great Rocky Marciano for his victory in the 1948 New England Golden Gloves Tournament. This important award was given to the Rock by the Lowell Sun Charities, the sponsor of this event. The belt still has its original red, white and blue sash. The gold color buckle features two generic fighters in the center with two boxing gloves flanking them on either side. The belt has printed in the corners the words, "HVY", "WGT", "19", "48". This award came directly from the family of the late Rocky Marciano and is accompanied by a letter of authenticity from his brother, Louis Marciano. Beautifully framed. This is a rare opportunity to purchase a belt which belonged to the man many consider the greatest Heavyweight Champion of all time. Estimate: $70,000-$80,000

194. Sugar Ray Leonard-Roberto Duran Autographed Poster
A beautiful LeRoy Neiman poster advertising their third fight which has been boldly signed in blue sharpie by both ring greats. Gorgeous! Estimate: $150-$175

195. Joe Louis World War II Advertising Poster
Joe Louis, as much as any athlete, gave his all to his country's war effort during World War II. The Brown Bomber appeared in exhibitions, made countless appearance and yes, even agreed to make military posters to inspire the troops and civilians alike. Offered here is his famous poster for the Army which states boldly, "Pvt. Joe Louis says, We're going to do our part... and we'll win because we're on God's side". Produced by the government during the war, this is the rare 1 sheet version picturing the Champ in Army uniform with rifle in hand. A classic from the period. Mint on linen. Estimate: $2,250-$2,500

196. Muhammad Ali Sparring Gloves
A fantastic pair of oversized sparring gloves used by Muhammad Ali when he trained at Deer Lake, Pennsylvania during the 1970's. These gloves are black with brown trim and sport a white manufacturing label by the maker, Everlast. On that label is included the logo, "Made Expressly for Muhammad Ali." These gloves are offered with a letter of authenticity on how the gloves were obtained. Equipment of Ali is difficult to find and gloves are rarely seen. In good condition and worn by the man who shocked the world. Estimate: $7,000-$8,000

197. Cassius Clay Commemorative Ring Magazine Belt
In 1964 Cassius Clay shocked the world with a stunning K.O. of then Champion, Sonny Liston. It was considered one of boxing's biggest upsets of all time. Ring Magazine presented its prestigious championship belt to the new Champ, but shortly thereafter a member of Clay's entourage allegedly sold the belt. To this day it has not been recovered or surfaced. This beautiful souvenir belt is a replica of that early Ring Belt given to Cassius Clay. Sporting a red, white and blue sash, this 5 panel belt includes the famous "Ring Championship Belt Won By Cassius Clay" on the center plate. This is flanked by plates picturing both Clay and Liston. The remaining plates commemorate Clay's victory stating, "Cassius Clay Defeated Sonny Liston Via 7 Round T.K.O. February 25, 1964", and "For the Heavyweight Championship Of The World Miami Beach, FL U.S.A.". Made up expressly for this auction celebrating the 75th anniversary of Ring Magazine. Fantastic in every detail. Only one authorized! Estimate: $5,000-$7,000

198. Robert Fitzsimmons Souvenir Horseshoe
The great Robert Fitzsimmons, the man who defeated Corbett to win the Heavyweight Title, built up his strong arms by his prior trade as a blacksmith. After he won the title, Fitz continued to perform those skills making souvenirs for his many fans. Here is an oversized horseshoe made by Fitzsimmons. Measuring 11" x 9", this horseshoe has 45 stars imprinted on it and the champ also put his name in it a total of 8 times. In great condition with precise detail. Estimate: $800-$1,000

199. Muhammad Ali-Chuck Wepner Pennant
A great green and white pennant for the fight that inspired Stallone's Rocky movie. Carries the logo, "Give The White Guy A Break Ali-Wepner World Heavyweight Championship Fight". 26" in EX condition. Scarce. Estimate: $250-$300

200. Joe Louis-Billy Conn Autographed Display
An 8 x 10 vintage picture of Conn and Louis signing contracts for their scheduled fight. Both are sporting Army uniforms. Both have signed this photo in dark ink. Framed with a full ticket to their scheduled bout for October 12, 1942. Rare to get these two greats together on one photo. Framed to 15 x 16. Estimate: $400-$500

201. Clay-Liston Fight Film Poster
A 1 sheet poster advertising the viewing of the film of their famous fight. Full body poses of both fighters. NR-MT with the normal folds. Estimate: $200-$300

202. Heenan-Sayers 1860 Original Print
Color print to commemorate their famous fight which was published by George Newbold in 1860. Contains portraits of 250 people who attended the fight. Great detail. 30" x 42" on linen. EX and scarce. Estimate: $1,000-$1,500

203. Cassius Clay & Joe Louis Autographed Glove
A bold vintage Cassius Clay autograph with a bold Joe Louis on an oversized burgundy colored sparring glove. An incredible combination of two of the all-time greats. Estimate: $1,500-$2,000

204. Tommy Morrison, "Tommy Gunn" Movie Outfit
The robe, shoes and trunks worn by Tommy Morrison in his movie appearance as Tommy Gunn in Stallone's famous Rocky series. Comes with a great color 8 x 10 of Morrison in the trunks signed by Morrison and his former associate, John Brown. The shoes have also been signed by Tommy. A fantastic commemorative from his "acting" career. Estimate: $500-$750

205. Tiger Flowers Promotional Poster
Entitled the "Fighting Deacon", this is a color 1 sheet promotional litho poster by Otis Lithograph Company in the 1920's showing Flowers in full fight pose. EX- on linen. Very rare. Estimate: $1,000-$1,500

206. The Rasso Midgets Boxing Poster
A rare 1890's novelty act poster depicting two midgets in the ring squaring off with the referee and seconds looking on. Great color. One sheet on linen. VG+. Estimate: $1,000-$1,500

207. Joe Louis Exhibition Poster
A great 1/2 sheet on-site poster which featured the Champ fighting in Washington, D.C. Louis is pictured in full fight pose in the center. From November 13, 1944 against Jimmy Bell. Classic and rare. Estimate: $1,000-$1,500

208. Jack Dempsey Oil Painting
This is a beauty and favorite of ours. Dempsey is center stage in the center flanked by a scene of him fighting on one side and his opponent being carried out on the other. Great detail and color. Done by G.G. Barrio in 1948. On canvas 28" x 64". Estimate: $2,500-$3,000

209. Abe Attell Poster
A color graphic poster of this famous Featherweight Champion who among other accomplishments was known to have been involved in the Black Sox fix in the 1919 World Series. Advertises the Attell-Kilbane battle. 42" x 80" on linen. VG with small hole in upper left corner. Extremely rare. Estimate: $2,500-$3,500

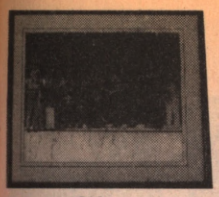
210. Beau Jack-Willie Joyce Fight Poster
Great 1/2 sheet on-site poster with illustrated head shots of both fighters advertising their November 15, 1945 bout (it was postponed to December). EX with folds. Estimate: $400-$500

211. James J. Corbett Antique Photograph
Beautiful sepia tone 12" x 15" studio portrait of a young Jim Corbett sporting the formal attire of the day. Fantastic bust shot from the 1890's. Rare in this size. Estimate: $1,000-$1,500

212. Stanley Ketchel Cartoon Art By Edgren
Great black and white, 10" x 131/2", original cartoon art by the famous Bob Edgren for the Stanley Ketchel-Philadelphia Jack O'Brien match. Framed in NR-MT condition. Estimate: $300-$400

213. James J. Corbett Antique Photograph By Chickering
This is the nicest Corbett photo we have seen. Done by Elmer Chickering of Boston this mounted original photo shows the young Champion bare chested with arms folded. A clear, sharp image of the handsome "Gentleman" Champion. 16" x 23". Perfection! Estimate: $3,000-$4,000

214. Paddy Ryan Antique Photograph
This is c.1884 John Wood large antique photo of the great Ryan in full fight pose. Great image and condition. Mounted to 141/2 x 19. The finest Ryan photo we have seen. Estimate: $2,000-$2,500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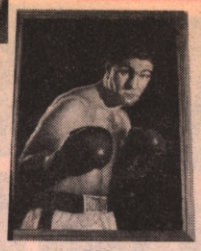
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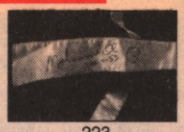
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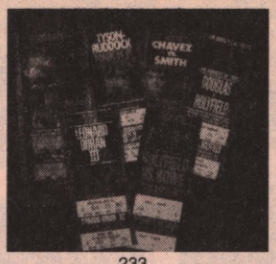

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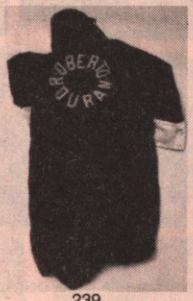

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215. Jake Kilrain Antique Photograph
A classic shot of Kilrain with arms folded, bare chested, sporting his great handlebar mustache. Done by O'Neil of New Bedford in 1888, this has a great image of Kilrain in his prime. Mounted to 14 x 181/2. Very rare. Estimate: $2,500-$3,000

216. Boxing Celebrity Autographed Photograph
When Joe Louis and Tommy Farr fought for the heavyweight title there was an array of famous fighters present who posed together in the ring. We are offering here an original 16" x 20" photograph of that great group standing together signed by Jack Johnson, James Braddock, Jack Dempsey, Gene Tunney, Max Schmeling, Johnny Dundee, Marcel Thil, Mickey Walker, Barney Ross, Pedro Montanez, Lou Ambers, Benny Leonard, Sixto Escobar, Fred Apostoli, Ceferino Garcia, Harry Jeffra and referee Arthur Donovan. All these great Champions on one awesome photo. Perhaps the finest autographed photo of boxers ever sold at public auction. Beautifully framed. Estimate: $8,000-$10,000

217. James J. Corbett Hand Written Letter
A nice one page letter penned by Corbett with a bold "Jim Corbett" ink signature. Scarce. Estimate: $400-$450

218. Joe Louis Coin Model
This is a beautiful plaster model used for a coin medal of the Brown Bomber. Copper colored with great likeness of Louis done by artist, Michael Iacocca in the 1980's. 81/2" in diameter. Estimate: $250-$300

219. Sammy Mandell Hand Tinted Photo
Colorized photo of Mandell in full fight pose. 11" x 14" framed. Estimate: $75-$100

220. Rocky Marciano Oil Painting
This is a large, stunning oil on canvas of Marciano in full fight pose. The Champ sports red gloves against a dark background and a wonderful likeness captured by acclaimed artist, Gabe Perillo. This was done in 1979 by Perillo who among other accomplishments, painted numerous covers for Ring Magazine. Framed to 42" x 33". Estimate: $1,500-$1,750

221. Boxing Book Lot of 11
A nice lot of assorted books including: Black Dynamite (Vols. I & III), Ring Record Books (1944, 1948, 1953, 1961), Dunphy At Ringside, The Long Count, Champions Off Guard, Give Him To The Angels, and The Mike Jacobs Story. Estimate: $150-$200

222. Billy Papke-Frank Klaus Fight Poster
This is a beautiful, full color, 1/2 sheet, on-site poster to the Championship fight between Papke and Klaus which took place in France on March 5, 1913. Color graphic illustrations of both fighters adorn this rare poster. Some edge faults and small tear at fold, otherwise EX+. Estimate: $2,000-$3,000

223.Muhammad Ali Autographed Boxing Robe
A beautiful black robe with white trim with Ali's name on the back boldly signed on the white collar with a large vintage Muhammad Ali signature. Dated December 4, 1983. Estimate: $150-$200

224. Robert Fitzsimmons-Jim Jeffries Photos
Five 31/2 x 51/2 antique photos of the two demonstrating the manly art framed into one brilliant display. Extremely clear images of both. Rare! Estimate: $1,000-$1,500

225. Muhammad Ali-Joe Frazier III On-Site Broadside
A 9 x 12 original broadside for the "Thrilla In Manila" features head shots of both fighters. An original from the Philippines. NR-MT. Estimate: $250-$350

226. Tom Cribb Benefit Ticket
This classic still has its original wax seal and was used for a benefit for the great English Champion, Tom Cribb on February 27, 1843. It calls for those attending to "Hasten To The Scratch For The Benefit Of Honest Old Tom Cribb". One of the oldest tickets involving a boxer ever offered at public sale. Estimate: $1,000-$1,500

227. Jack Dempsey-Luis Firpo Contract
This two page contract deals with the agreement on the film rights for one of boxing's most famous Heavyweight Championship fights. Signed on 8/23/23 by Jack Dempsey, his manager, Jack Kearns and the fight's famous promoter, George "Tex" Rickard. Bold ink signatures of all three. Offered in its original jacket. A great piece of boxing history. Estimate: $3,000-$4,000

228. Boxing Cabinet Card Lot of 11
This lot is made up of some of boxing's great fighters at the turn of the century including: Sullivan (5), Corbett (3), Peter Jackson (2), and Ryan (1). A fantastic grouping. Condition ranges from VG to EX. Estimate: $1,000-$1,500

229. Joe Louis Autographed Display
Features a vintage, signed 8 x 10 of Louis mounted with a stub to the Louis-Conn II fight and an advertisement for the Louis-Walcott fight. Framed to 14" x 18" Estimate: $200-$250

230. John L. Sullivan Autographed Display
A cabinet card of the young John L. mounted with a very large ink cut signature signed, "Compliments of John L. Sullivan", framed to 101/2 x 131/2. Magnificent autograph. Estimate: $750-$1,000

231. Spalding Advertising Poster
A great early poster of the famous Spalding Company advertising their brand of professional and amateur boxing gloves. Depicts a great fight scene. Cardboard, 14" x 22", in VG+ condition with a few minor edge faults. Estimate: $250-$275

232. Robert Fitzsimmons-James Corbett Fight Poster
A very rare example of a pre-1900 fight poster which advertises the planned bout between Heavyweight Champion, James Corbett and challenger, Robert Fitzsimmons in Dallas, Texas on October 31, 1895. Both fighters are graphically depicted in full body poses with their measurements. The poster also advertises the November 1, 1895 bouts between Tommy Ryan and Mysterious Billy Smith and Peter Maher and Steve O'Donnell. The poster was put out by Eckhardt and Company for the purpose of posting gambling odds on the fights and to announce how to make wagers. 24" x 36" in a professional frame. There are four holes in the poster which do not seriously detract from its image or importance. Estimate: $6,000-$7,000

233. Boxing Ticket Lot of 15
Fifteen full boxing tickets, most illustrated advertising a number of the great bouts of recent years including: Leonard-Duran III, Ali-Cooper II, Tyson-Ruddock I & II, Holyfield-Bowe, Holyfield-Douglas, and a number of others. NR-MT. Estimate: $300-$400

234. Boxing Autograph Lot of 20
A fabulous lot of boxing autographs including a 1 page letter by Dempsey, signed photos of Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, James Braddock, Billy Conn, and LaMotta; also cut signatures of Carnera, Abe Attell, Ezzard Charles, Galento and many more. Must be seen. Estimate: $500-$750

235. Boxing Program Lot of 110
110 official fight programs mainly from the 40's to the 70's covering many great fights in the U.S. and Great Britain. Includes fights of Patterson, Johansson, Quarry, Frazier, Mills and numerous other great fighters. Condition ranges from VG to EX. Estimate: $500-$750

236. Muhammad Ali Boxing Program Lot of 3
A nice lot for "The Greatest" including the official program for : Ali-Spinks I (EX), Ali-Alzado (NR-MT), and Ali-Frazier III (C/C - EX). Estimate: $200-$250

237. Max Baer Autographed Photo
A gorgeous sepia tone 8 x 10 studio portrait of Baer in a suit boldly inscribed in ink and dated. Estimate: $150-$175

238. Rubin Hurricane Carter Letter & Signed Photo
Carter was one of the 60's great contenders until he was arrested and convicted for murder, a murder he was later exonerated for. This two page letter details his case and is signed by Carter. Accompanied by a signed 8 x 10 photo. Great content. Estimate: $200-$250

239. Roberto Duran Fight Robe
A full length green with white trim robe worn by the "Hands of Stone" during the early years of his career. The name Roberto Duran appears in white on the back of the robe. This robe was obtained directly from the Duran family and comes with a letter of authenticity from Felicidad Duran, the wife of Roberto Duran. Shows heavy use. Estimate: $2,000-$2,500

240. Tommy Hearns Fight Trunks
A beautiful pair of blue satin with gold trim trunks used by the great Tommy Hearns. On the front waistband in gold appears the name, Hearns. On the lower left leg in gold appears the nickname, Hitman. These trunks show heavy use and still have bloodstains evident. Estimate: $1,500-$2,000

241. Muhammad Ali Autographed Glove
A beautiful rich red leather Everlast glove which has been boldly signed Muhammad Ali in gold pen. A large older Ali signature obtained during the late 80's. Estimate: $150-$200

242. Gus Lesnevich Fight Robe
A classic 1940's style fight robe worn by former Light Heavyweight Champion, Gus Lesnevich. A white robe with blue and red trim, this states on the back, Hudson Dispatch Union City. Obtained originally from the Lesnevich family. Fight equipment from this era is very difficult to obtain. Heavy wear evident. Estimate: $1,500-$2,000

243. Matthew Saad Muhammad N.A.B.F. Belt
This is the belt worn by Muhammad for his victory over Marvin Johnson for the North American Boxing Federation Title on July 26, 1977. The belt is red with a large gold plate in the center and two small side plates. Muhammad has signed the back of the belt. It comes with a letter of authenticity from Saad Muhammad. Estimate: $1,500-$2,000

244. Albert Davila Fight Worn Gloves
Gloves worn by Bantamweight Champion (1983-84) Davila. Eight ounce Reyes red gloves which have been signed by Davila, "Won Title September 1, 1983 Kiko Bejines Albert Davila". Estimate: $200-$250

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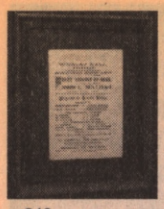
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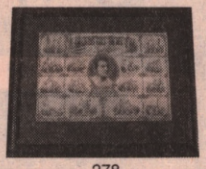
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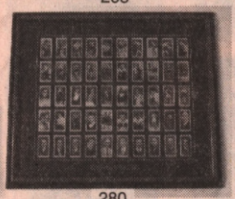
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245. Danny "Little Red" Lopez Fight Gloves
A pair of red, 8 ounce, Reyes gloves used by Danny Lopez, Featherweight Champion (1976-80). Lopez has written on glove, "Won Title Danny Lopez vs. David Kotey November 5, 1976". Estimate: $250-$300

246. John L. Sullivan Broadside
An 1880's broadside announcing Sullivan's appearance in exhibition, Grand Assault-Of-Arms, in England. Sullivan boxed with Alf Greenfield of England in Birmingham, England. 71/4 x 10 in EX condition. Framed. Estimate: $750-$1,000

247. Lou Nova Boxing Robe
Red with white trim full length robe worn by Lou Nova, Heavyweight contender who fought Joe Louis during the 1940's. On front the initials LN appear. Obtained from Nova family. Estimate: $500-$600

248. Rocky Lockridge Robe & Trunks
A beautiful pair of red wine colored robe and trunks worn by Lockridge. His initials, RL, appear on trunks and "Rocky" appears on back of robe. Velour. Estimate: $200-$300

249. Jimmy Young Robe & Trunks
White and black robe and trunks used by Young, a Heavyweight contender who fought Ali, Norton, and Foreman. Obtained directly from Young, the trunks were purportedly used in Foreman fight and robe in Norton fight. Estimate: $200-$300

250. Larry Holmes-Evangelista Fight Poster
On-site poster for the Heavyweight Title on 11/10/78. 22" x 28", EX condition and scarce. Estimate: $75-$100

251. Boxing Cartoon Art By Willard Mullin
Great black and white scene of two fighters banging it out as the crowd roars. Signed by Mullin. 22" x 28", rare in this size. Depicts 1903 Fitzsimmons-Grim bout. Estimate: $400-$500

252. Jess Willard Signed Contract
A fantastic 1922 fight contract signed in ink by Jess Willard agreeing to a rematch with Jack Dempsey. Three pages framed with a vintage photo of Willard. Fight did not materialize. Difficult signature. Estimate: $2,000-$2,500

253. James J. Corbett Antique Photo
A great sepia tone studio portrait of Corbett in full fighting pose from his days as Heavyweight Champion. Strong image. 12" x 16", rare in this size. Estimate: $750-$1,000

254. Vinny Pazienza Fight Robe & Cornerman Jacket
The actual fight robe worn by the Paz in his fight with Luis Santana on 12/15/92. Vinny has signed the robe and added, "W-10 over Luis Santana Foxwoods Ledyard, CT 12/15/92". Features white satin with black and gold trim and classic cut-off sleeves. Comes with a jacket worn in corner by one of his handlers. Framed and beautiful. Estimate: $1,000-$1,200

255. Paul Berlenbach-Jack Delaney Ring Art Cover
A beautiful cover painted by Stanley Weston for the January 1949 anniversary issue of Ring. 34" x 25" framed. Flawless with vibrant color. Estimate: $1,000-$1,500

256. Boxing Tobacco Poster
This beauty is a turn of the century advertising poster for Lorillard's Splendid Plug Tobacco which pictures two fighters wearing ring garb of the era squaring off. EX condition, 1 sheet on linen. Estimate: $1,000-$1,500

257. Jack McAuliffe-King Of The Turf Play Poster
A magnificent 1890 play poster which pictures McAuliffe with the heroine in his arms. Great color and very rare. 25" x 38" framed. Overall EX condition with some edge faults. Estimate: $2,000-$2,500

258. Rocky Lockridge I.B.F. Championship Belt
On August 9, 1987, Rocky Lockridge defeated Barry Michael in London to win the International Boxing Federation Junior Lightweight Championship. The I.B.F. awarded a spectacular belt to Rocky to honor his victory. That belt in its original case is offered here. It is a three plate belt with the I.B.F. logo in the center plate and two side plates explaining the victory and award. These gold colored plates rest on heavy red leather sash. In beautiful condition. Offered with a letter of authenticity. Estimate: $2,000-$2,500

259. Robert Fitzsimmons Pin Lot of 5
Five rare Fitzsimmons pins including High Admiral Cigarettes, Am I In It, Pepsin Gum, F. Miller & Co., and WhiteHead & Hoag versions. Overall EX. Estimate: $300-$350

260. Young Jack O'Brien Pin
"Our Champion" with nice illustration. EX+ condition. Estimate: $50-$75

261. Joe Louis Booster Pin
Rare black and white of young Joe in boxing pose (EX). Estimate: $150-$200

262. James J. Corbett Theater Pennant
A small illustrated pennant of a young Corbett appearing at the Raver Star in one of his many theatrical performances. In beautiful condition (EX+ to NR-MT). Estimate: $400-$500

263. Boxing Autograph Lot of 4
8 x 10 signed photos of Dempsey, Walcott, Giardello with a cut signature of Billy Conn and his lobby card photo from The Pittsburgh Kid. Estimate: $200-$250

264. Joe Louis Lot of 4
Louis-Walcott Advertising Coaster (EX), Louis-Schmeling I Matches (EX), Louis-Charles Betting Ticket (EX-), and Joe Louis Hair Pomade (EX-) make up this unique lot. Estimate: $100-$150

265. Muhammad Ali Lot of 7
Ali-Holmes Pin (EX-), Ali-Frazier I Pin (NR-MT), Ali-Jersey City Pin (EX-), Ali-Bugner Matches (NR-MT), Ali Shaving Cream (EX+), Ali Belt Buckle (NR-MT), and Ali Popcorn make up this lot which also includes a booklet for his 50th birthday. Estimate: $200-$300

266. Max Baer Lot of 2
Gorgeous tuxedo pin coupled with a rare illustrated package of Max Baer Razor Blades. Estimate: $150-$200

267. Boxing Pin Lot of 45
A fabulous lot of boxing pins including: Marciano, Liston, Duran, Cerdan, Robinson, Patterson, Walcott, and many more make up this impressive and colorful lot of rare pins. Overall Very Good condition. Estimate: $600-$800

268. Mike Tyson Lot of 8
Pins to the Williams, Biggs, Stewart, Holyfield, and Ruddock II are matched with 11 Tyson promo photos, a Tyson lighter and an official program to Tyson-Douglas (NR-MT). Estimate: $150-$200

269. Sugar Ray Leonard Program Lot of 3
Leonard-Hearns I (NR-MT), Leonard-Duran II (NR-MT), and Leonard-Duran III (NR-MT). Estimate: $100-$150

270. Dempsey & Tendler Restaurant Lot of 9
Dempsey items include: sugar cube, plate, ashtray, stirrer, and a clothier ad piece. Tendler items include: pin, matches (3) and creamer. All mention the fighter. Estimate: $150-$200

271. Dempsey-Tunney II Full Ticket
This beauty has been placed in lucite to preserve. Official ticket to this famous "Long Count" fight of 9/22/27. Not a proof. EX condition. Estimate: $300-$400

272. First Year Bound Volume of Ring Magazine
This is the volume that started the Ring on the road to being the most successful magazine in boxing history. Twelve issues from February 1922 to January 1923 beautifully bound in Ring's original binding. July and September are VG, the rest are almost NR-MT. Estimate: $1,000-$1,500

273. Second Year Bound Volume of Ring Magazine
Twelve issues from February 1923 to January 1924 bound in Ring's original binding. Some minor edge faults on a few issues and some light stains on two. Overall a strong EX. Estimate: $800-$1,000

274. Third Year Bound Volume of Ring Magazine
Twelve issues from February 1924 to January 1925 bound in Ring's original binding. April is VG, the rest are strong EX to NR-MT. Estimate: $750-$900

275. Heenan-Sayers Display
A great black and white print of the great fight drawn by Rowbotham & Brown and published in 1860 by C. Roker depicts the fighters squaring off with the crowd looking on. Framed with an original 1860 newspaper, NY Times covering the fight. Overall EX condition, 25" x 43", and offered with key. Estimate: $800-$1,000

276. Joe Louis Collage Poster
Black and white poster featuring the "Brown Bomber" in fight pose flanked by action scenes from his great fights. Circa 1940's, 20" x 30", EX condition. Estimate: $200-$300

277. The Interior Of The Fives Court (Randall & Turner)
Beautiful color print of Randall and Turner squaring off with crowd looking on. Published in London in 1825. Great detail and vivid color. 23" x 29", EX condition. Estimate: $500-$600

278. Tom Sayers Print
A color print featuring Sayers in center flanked by scenes from all his famous fights. Full color, framed to 24" x 27", EX condition. Estimate: $200-$250

279. Jack Dempsey Painting (Autographed)
Dempsey in full fight pose against a dark background sporting a very good likeness. Dempsey has inscribed and signed this in the lower left corner not affecting his image. Framed to 26" x 39". Estimate: $700-$800

280. 1938 Churchman Boxing Card Set
Fifty card Churchman English boxing card set neatly framed. Includes all the greats of the day including: Johnson, Carnera & Dempsey. Cards are mounted. VG to EX condition, 23" x 27". Estimate: $150-$200

281. Jack McAuliffe Exhibition Poster
Original 1914 poster advertising his appearance along with Charlie Mitchell, Jem Carney and others. Some small tears at edges and folds which do not detract from its appearance. Framed to 20" x 31". Estimate: $800-$1,000

282. John Jackson Print
Taken from original picture in possession of Sir Henry Smith. Shown wearing frock coat, white breeches and gold fob. Beautiful hand colored. Published in 1810. Slight staining. Framed 18" x 25". Estimate: $1,000-$1,250

Mastro & Steinbach

Atlantic City Fine Sports Auction - March 8, 1997

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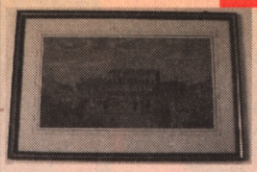

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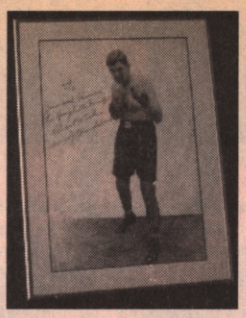

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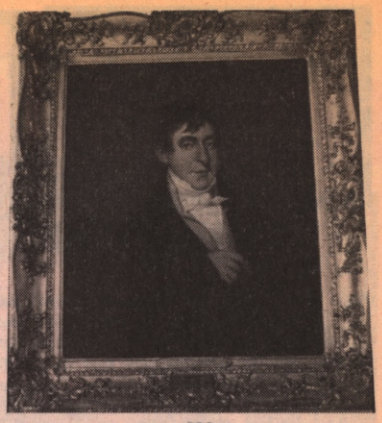

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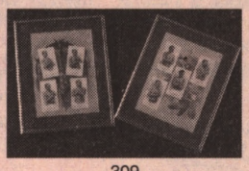

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283. Jack Johnson-Jim Jeffries Poster
A beautiful color fight poster advertising one of the most controversial fights in boxing history. Entitled, "The Incomparable Prize Fight", this poster features color illustrations of both fighters in separate frames (they would not pose together). Published in 1910. 101/2 x 13, framed in NR-MT condition. Very rare. Estimate: $2,500-$3,000

284. Julio Caesar Chavez-Edwin Rosario Fight Banner
A huge 4' x 11' on-site banner advertising the "Duel In The Desert" between two great Champions. EX with some edge faults. Estimate: $600-$700

285. Spring & Langan Print
The Great Fight for the Championship of England. Beautiful hand colored engraving. 121/4 x 221/4, 1824, framed. Vibrant! Estimate: $300-$400

286. English Boxing Silk Lot of 2
1897 Pedlar Palmer-Dave Sullivan Silk. 27" x 30", beautiful color with slight staining. 1910 Jim Sullivan-Tom Thomas Silk. Deep green color, 30" x 34". EX. Estimate: $400-$500

287. James J. Braddock Signed Photo
Oversized black and white in full boxing pose boldly inscribed by the last "Irish" Heavyweight Champ. 9 x 14. Estimate: $150-$200

288. Jack Dempsey Signed Photo
Dempsey sporting his famous pose with his robe boldly signed in ink. 7 x 10, framed. Estimate: $150-$200

289. Max Baer-Primo Carnera Lithograph
A classic from the era showing "Primo On The Ropes". Mint condition litho by Joseph Golinken. 16" x 21". Estimate: $500-$600

290. Jem Belcher Painting by Berridge
Jem Belcher was the 20th Champion of the London Prize Ring in the Heavyweight Class. He fought from 1798 to 1809 taking on the likes of Henry Pearce and Tom Cribb. A Champion of significance his likeness was vividly captured in this 1805 work by artist, John Berridge. Belcher is seen in a high collared white shirt against an English style frock coat. This beautiful work carries a plate noted it was presented to James White Esq. This significant painting hung in the National Sporting Club in England until it was sold some years ago. Mounted in a large, ornate, gold leaf frame from its era, this oil speaks directly from the time it was created. One of the most significant artworks in boxing to be offered at public sale. As beautiful as the day it was done. Framed to 33 x 39 (actual size 24 x 30). Estimate: $12,000-$15,000

291. Jack Johnson Pin
Oak Cigarette Pin, "I Can Lick Johnson" (EX). Estimate: $150-$200

292. Cassius Clay Pin
Vintage black and white stadium pin (EX+). Estimate: $150-$200

293. Joe Louis Punch Pin
Great advertising pin, "It's A Knockout" (EX). Estimate: $200-$250

294. Young Stribling Pin
Beautiful stadium style pin commemorating the "Champion of the South" (EX). Estimate: $125-$150

295. Joe Louis Pin Lot of 4
Four scarce Louis pins including a rare one from his booster club, two World Champion pins and one from his Good Luck Club. Overall EX condition. Estimate: $300-$400

296. Dempsey-Gibbons Fight Pin
Very rare version which pictures both fighters in full poses. Some foxing. Estimate: $250-$300

297. Jack Dempsey Pin
A beauty in picture frame format picturing Dempsey in fight pose (EX). Estimate: $250-$300

298. Gene Tunney Pin
Beautiful bare chested Tunney. Black and white with light foxing. Gloves still attached. Estimate: $200-$250

299. Sullivan & Corbett Pins
Put out by Whitehead & Hoag Co. in 1890's. Great images of both. EX condition. Estimate: $250-$300

300. Henry Armstrong-Fritzie Zivic Fight Poster
An extremely rare 3 sheet, on-site Madison Square Garden poster advertising the October 4, 1940 Welterweight Championship fight between Fritzie Zivic and Henry Armstrong. Zivic won the title in a 15 round decision. Some edge faults and paper tears at the folds. Any Armstrong poster is scarce, but particularly rare in this size. Estimate: $2,500-$3,500

301. John L. Sullivan Poster
A striking turn of the century black and white poster of Sullivan in full boxing pose wearing the tights and sash common to fighters of this era. This image was actually done by Mora Studios in the 1880's and captures Sullivan as he looked when he won the title from Paddy Ryan. 24" x 40" in a professional frame. Classic! Estimate: $3,000-$4,000

302. Jake Kilrain Poster
A turn of the century full color poster of Kilrain in full boxing pose replete with sash and tights, as he looked in the late 1880's. 16 x 25 with some surface scrapes which do not detract from either the image or beauty of this poster. Estimate: $2,000-$2,500

303. Mike Tyson Oil Painting
One of the best put to canvas by noted sports artist, Gabe Perillo. A perfect likeness of "Iron Mike" is captured here. Tyson in boxing form with a posed Tyson looking on. Beautiful color. Done in 1995. 30" x 40". Gabe Perillo has painted many sports subjects, including art for the Ring. Estimate: $1,500-$2,000

304. Willie Pep Oil Painting
Another beauty by Gabe Perillo which captures the look and intensity of the great "Will O The Wisp", Willie Pep. 30" x 40". Estimate: $1,000-$1,500

305. Muhammad Ali Photographic Portrait By Karsh
Yousuf Karsh is perhaps the most significant portrait artist of the past 50 years. His subjects have included Martin Luther King, John F. Kennedy, Andy Warhol, Grace Kelly, and the man known as "The Greatest", Muhammad Ali. This photo was done at a session done by Karsh in 1979. It captures the image of Ali known throughout the world. Posed in a suit with hands on hips, Ali strikes that serious, yet playful look only he seems capable of. These photos are scarce and extremely desirable. At gallery they fetch well in excess of $5,000. 20" x 24" in a professional frame. Estimate: $4,000-$5,000

306. Jack Dempsey Rippled Wheat Advertising Standee
Beautiful color standee showing a young Dempsey in full fight pose. Great cardboard ad piece. The back was restored. This piece is in Mint condition. 33" in height this is rare, particularly in this size. Estimate: $1,000-1,500

307. Hand Colored Engraving Lot of 7
Dynamite lot of antique engravings including: Cribb, 6" x 41/2", published in 1821; C. Michel, 6" x 31/4", 19th century; C.Y. Davis, 41/2" x 8", 19th century; Richard Curtis, 7" x 101/4", 19th century reproduction; John Gully, 71/4" x 91/4", 19th century; Henry Pearce, 8" x 10", 19th century; John Broughton, 61/2" x 101/2", 19th century from mezzotint; all framed. Very rare. Estimate: $500-$600

308. Boxing Hall Of Fame Autographed Poster
Illustrated poster commemorating the 1991 HOF signed by: Ike Williams, Billy Backus, Carlos Ortiz, Carmen Basilio, Kid Gavilan, Emile Griffith, Bob Foster, Willie Pep, Vito Antuofermo, Jimmy McLarnin, Floyd Patterson, Beau Jack, Sandy Saddler, Sean O'Grady, George Chuvalo, Jose Torres, and Ray Arcel. 15" x 23", NR-MT. Estimate: $300-$400

309. Allen & Ginter Album Pages
Two beautiful, Mint, color pages depicting several of the famous cards from this desirable set including: Edwards, Murphy, LaBlanche, etc. 8" x 10"/EAC. Estimate: $150-$200

310. Crib & Molineau Hand Colored Etching
"The Battle" is featured in this hand colored etching published by Walker & Knight in 1811. 10" x 14" in oak frame. Rare. Estimate: $300-$400.

311. DeFust Blood Hand Colored Lithograph
A fight between two black pugilists with spectators looking on is featured in this 19th century litho. Published by S. Lipschitz in London. 10" x 15". Estimate: $200-$300

312. Daniel Mendoza Hand Colored Etching
19th Century etching of Mendoza in full fight pose. Beautifully framed in a gold leaf classic. 121/2" x 19", NR-MT. Estimate: $200-$300

313. Muhammed Ali-Larry Holmes Autographed Fight Poster
Beautiful Caesar's Palace version on-site poster picturing both fighters in LeRoy Neiman drawing at center. Both fighters have boldly signed this poster in silver pen. 22" x 28" in EX+ condition. Estimate: $300-$400

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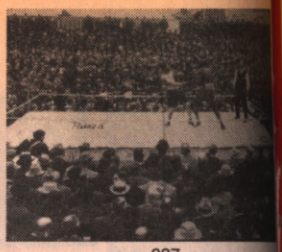
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314. Stanley Ketchel Fight Gloves
An extremely rare pair of 8 ounce fight gloves used by the "Michigan Assassin", Stanley Ketchel. These gloves are in good condition and still sport the old D&M label with the Wolf symbol on it. These gloves came from the collection of old fight promoter in Memphis, Billy Haack. The gloves have a small label and were marked Ketchel on the inside. That marking is light, but still readable. The small label indicates these gloves were used in his fight on May 18, 1909 against Hugh McCann. To our knowledge, these gloves are the only documented pair offered in public sale for this great early Champion. Estimate: $10,000-$15,000

315. Gene Tunney Fight Gloves
A pair of 8 ounce gloves used by Tunney during his long career. These were obtained from the collection of old time referee and promoter, Billy Haack of Memphis. Tunney's name has been written into each glove. The gloves show considerable wear with some leather loss on the exterior. A very rare offering from a past Heavyweight Champion. Estimate: $5,000-$7,500

316. Jess Willard 101 Ranch Pennant
A beautiful blue and white illustrated pennant advertising Willard at the famous Western 101 Ranch. 29", EX condition. Estimate: $500-$750

317. Black Pugilist Cartoon Art Lot of 2
A great pair featuring two of boxing's early greats. The first is a Bob Edgen cartoon illustrating, Joe Gans of Baltimore (11 x 181/2 in EX condition with one water stain). The second done by William features Sam Langford (171/2 x 22 in VG condition). Great illustrations, very rare. Estimate: $500-$750

318. Celluloid Photo Lot of 128
128 antique celluloids in 5 x7 frames featuring many of the greats of the 20's and 30's including: Dempsey, Tunney, Firpo, Walker, Chocolate, and many more. Overall in EX condition. Unique and rare. From the collection of trainer, Jimmy DeForest. Estimate: $1,500-$2,000

319. Lou Nova Collection
A great collection which includes his Golden Gloves shirt, a banner from his USO show, a signed glove, and numerous plaques and certificates awarded to this fine Heavyweight who fought Joe Louis. Obtained directly from the family of Lou Nova. Estimate: $500-$750

320. John Morrissey Ink Signature
Bold ink signature on a card of the man who became American Heavyweight Champion in 1858 with a win over Heenan. Rare. Estimate: $500-$750

321. Rocky Marciano Signed Note
A great note we believe written to his brother, Lou in which he speaks of the toughness he had to win the title and the toughness of "guines". There is a hole which does affect the signature. Estimate: $600-$800

322. Rocky Marciano Signed Photo
A nice black and white 11 x 14 showing the Champ with arms raised. Good inscribed signature although part of the Rocky is in dark area of photo. Estimate: $500-$750

323. Tommy Burns Signed Letter
This early champ has boldly signed this 1 page letter on his stationery. Signed in 1949. A beauty! Estimate: $300-$400

324. Tommy Burns Signed Photo
A great 5 x 7 antique photo of the former Heavyweight Champion as he looked at the time. Sporting the suit of the era he has boldly signed this photo and dated it 1910. Difficult Champion to find on a photo. Estimate: $1,250-$1,500

325. Crib & Molineaux Hand Colored Engraving Lot of 2
This is a beautiful pair of hand colored engravings covering their fights of 1810 and 1811. Both are 21 x 17 in their original frames. Nice likenesses of the fighters and very good color with little fading. Estimate: $700-$800

326. Boxing Print Lot of 3
A beautiful Vanity Fair "Spy" print published in 1896 (9 x 14); hand colored etching of Jimmy Wilde signed by Harry Preston and George Belcher from 1919 (101/4 x 15); hand colored etching of Jimmy Wilde signed by Austin (11 x 14). Estimate: $200-$300

327. Gene Tunney Photo Lot of 3
Three beautiful 11 x 14 studio shots of a distinguished looking Tunney in his Naval uniform. Estimate: $50-$100

328. Joe Louis Lot of 3
A great illustrated 7 x 9 broadside picturing Louis and advertising his appearance as referee signed and dated by the Champ in 1947. This is matched with two different certificate awards given Joe after he retired. Estimate: $500-$600

329. Ring Magazine Lot of 85
Eighty-five issues of Ring spanning from the 1920's to the 1970's. Includes bound volumes of 1944 and 1945. Many in 20's. Overall EX condition. Estimate: $200-$300

330. First Year Bound Volume of Ring Magazine
February 1922 to January 1923 bound in original Ring binding. This is a set in very nice condition. A few issues have some minor flaws, but overall this is one of the nicest condition groups we have had from this 1st year. Estimate: $1,300-$1,500

331. Second Year Bound Volume of Ring Magazine
February 1923 to January 1924 in original Ring binding. The volume rates a strong EX. Scarce. Estimate: $1,000-$1,2

332. Ring Record Book Lot of 17
1963, 67, 68, 70 (2), 71-74, 78-79, 80 (2), 81, 82, 84, 8
Range from VG to EX+. Estimate: $300-$400

333. Jack Dempsey Serving Pieces
A large knife and fork made of silver in their original case. The knife features a boxing glove on the blade with the inscription "With Best Wishes Jack Dempsey 1924". From his personal effects. Unique. Estimate: $300-$400

334. Boxing Ticket Lot of 10
A fabulous lot of turn of the century boxing tickets including original Joe Walcott-Billy Smith (5/4/1900), Kid McCoy-Tom Sharkey (1/10/99), Maher-Morrissey (6/20/99), Bonner-Hanrahan (7/13/1900), Bernstein-Smith (6/22/1900), Bernstein-Gardner (8/23/1900), McFadden-O'Brien (4/30/1900), Bonner-Beyers (12/13/98), Milligan-Zivic (2/19/26), and Gardner-Broad (5/10/1900). All in EX condition. Estimate: $2,500-$3,000

335. Larry Holmes Boxing Shoes
White Everlast shoes worn in his 1994 fight with Garing Lane. Shoes have been signed and dated by Holmes. Estimate: $200-$300

336. Carpentier-Gibbons Fight Poster
This is the companion on-site poster to the other offered in this sale. This version pictures Gibbons. 14" x 22" in EX condition. Scarce. Estimate: $700-$800

337. Jack Johnson-Stanley Ketchel Antique Photo
A great action shot by Dana showing Johnson pursuing a bloody and battered Ketchel in Round 5. Very clear black and white with great images of both men. 15" x 20". Rare in this size. Estimate: $1,000-$1,500

338. Larry Holmes Boxing Robe
A red and white full length robe used in a 1990 exhibition by Larry Holmes. His name appears on the back and Holmes has signed the front in black marker. Offered with a letter of authenticity from Larry Holmes on his stationery. Estimate: $1,000-$1,500

339. Larry Holmes-Oliver McCall Autographed Fight Poster
On-site poster for Heavyweight Title which has been signed by most of the fighters appearing on that card including: Holmes, McCall, Trinidad, Seldon, Chavez, Randall, Santana, Norris, Tucker, and trainer Eddie Futch. 22" x 28", EX condition with bold signatures. Estimate: $300-$400

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